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75¢

Ex-Rota official Toves not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court jury on Rota handed down a not guilty verdict yesterday against former Rota Finance Procurement and Supply acting administrator Tilford S. Toves.

Saipan Tribune learned that after deliberating since Wednesday night, the six jurors reached a unanimous verdict

See EX-ROTA on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sylvestre Rogopes Sablan, a 43-year-old jobless man tagged by police investigators as a person of interest in the murder of his wife, Ana Maria Limes, was con-

» Defendant got 5-day prison term

victed in 2013 for beating and threatening to kill his neighbor in Oleai.

According to court records, on Oct. 4, 2013, Sablan pleaded guilty to assault and battery and was slapped with a five-day

RELATED NEWS
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prison term, with credit for three days of time served. He was placed on a year of supervised release.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also ordered Sablan to complete See LIMES on Page 4

Limes' husband also beat up, threatened to kill neighbor in 2013



34th Flame Tree Arts Festival opens

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 34th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival kicked off yesterday in tribute,

song, and dance, beginning the four-night, two-day celebration of the islands' arts and culture.

The festival began with remarks from government officials, highlighting

the importance of the event. Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he and his wife, Diane, enjoy walking by the displays set up every year. "You can learn a lot, not just from the present but from

the past," he said.

"Art is a presentation of our journey. It allows us to go beyond the struggles we face and see the beauty of our islands' world," he said.

The opening ceremony recalled festival artists who've passed away recently, inviting families to receive plaques in remembrance of them.

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Friends say Freddie Gray's death after his arrest reveals Baltimore dynamics.

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LIFE & STYLE

Russell Crowe finds his roots as director of "The Water Diviner."

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Local

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2015 CNMI TOURISM MONTH

"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

Proclamation Signing

April 29, 2015

Governor Eloy S. Inos will officially declare the month of May 2015 as CNMI Tourism Month with a formal proclamation signing ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. The Marianas Visitors Authority and our industry partners invite the public to participate in the activities of the Tourism Month celebration.

Tourism Industry Clean up Day

April 29, 2015

Marianas Visitors Authority invites the community to join the Japan Saipan Travel Association and our other tourism partners to help beautify the Garapan tourism district in preparation for Japan's Golden Week holiday. The clean-up will be from 6:30-8:00 a.m., beginning at the American Memorial Park parking lot to Carolinian Affairs Office along the beaches and streets.

"Hafa Adai Tirow" Spirit Island Wear Fridays

Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at "My Marianas (Marianas Visitors Authority)."

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by 15 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Topics feature of the Saipan Tribune.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. Tourism Trivia will air regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (97.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).

Tourist for a Day (Tinian)

Pupils and students will be toured around the island as tourists bringing forth awareness of the importance of the only industry we have. The tour will include all major historical and cultural sites including beaches on the island while emphasizing on the value of maintaining such sites.



'Expanded' anti-crime TF eyed

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers are supporting the creation of an expanded anti-crime task force in light of the increasing number of crimes in the CNMI.

Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota), chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, said he plans to convene a meeting to specifically start discussions on a possible "expanded" task force against crimes in the CNMI.

"This is a serious matter that we intend to look into," Maratita said. "I know that we already have a task force [against crime] but we're looking at an expanded [one]."

Details of the task force will have to be studied, he said, by looking into existing laws and finding available funding.

"We need to find solutions on this very serious issue," Maratita said, adding that his committee will also work closely with the Department of Public Safety.

There are neighborhood watch initiatives in the CNMI, but although these are effective, there is a need for a more comprehensive approach to address the rising crimes.

The rise in crime is largely attributed to the proliferation of methamphetamine or "ice" in the CNMI.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), an active participant of neighborhood anti-crime initiatives, said he supports the idea of an expanded task force.

He stressed that the community should have more participation and that this is a "wake-up call" for the CNMI. "The community should rise up."

Propst said he has initiated neighborhood watch initiatives particularly in Dandan and nearby communities. He also plans to invite his colleagues at the Legislature to do the same in their respective precincts.

Rep. Francis Taimanao (Ind-Saipan) also supports the idea of having different agencies working on a specific goal.

The lawmaker said it will be good if different agencies in different fields can pool their resources together to address crime in the CNMI.

DOC, DPS participation

Many have pointed to the proliferation of "ice" as one of the catalysts of the rising criminality, which is why an agency such as the Department of Customs also plays a critical role in anti-crime efforts.

Customs Director Jose Mafnas said he supports an anti-crime task force involving different agencies.

When asked to comment on the recent homicide cases which were only one day apart, Mafnas said "everybody's shaken by it."

It has been reported that drugs might have something to do with the recent crimes.

"Drugs just does not fall from the skies, they are coming from the ports," Mafnas said, adding that he supports an anti-crime task force "100 percent."

He said he has in fact met with the DPS commissioner. "I'm just hearing that [task force] today, but I already met with the commissioner."

Crimes against locals

There were heinous crimes in the CNMI before but in most of the cases, the crimes involved foreigners.

What is alarming is that the recent heinous crimes—particularly two cases involving homicides that were only one day apart—were committed against residents of the CNMI.

For Gov. Eloy S. Inos, "one incident is one too many."

"This is very unfortunate," Inos said. "I hope the DPS will resolve these issues, although they have limited resources."

Inos said the dynamics have become different because in recent past, the victims of the crimes were foreigners, but the last two cases involved CNMI residents.

"But we don't want to see the proliferation of crime, regardless of nationalities," Inos said.

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CDA: Lao Lao is ‘agreeable’ to suspension of QC

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority's planned suspension of Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort's qualifying certificate was found "agreeable," according to CDA executive director Manuel Sablan.

Sablan said it was "indicated to us they were agreeable to suspending [the QC] until a certain period in the future."

The resort has "agreed to these modifications" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The recommended suspension of the certificate now sits with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, after the CDA board adopted a resolution formally stating their position.

Per the certificate's terms, Lao Lao Resort has never met the minimum annual public benefit contribution requirements of \$100,000 in 2010 until today.

CDA recommends to Inos two specific actions: the suspension of the resort company's qualifying certificate from its effective date in 2008 through

Inos: Decision on EIS review will come after the public hearings

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has confirmed that the U.S. military will decide on a request to extend the CNMI's review period of the military's draft environment impact statement only after the public hearings on the EIS are completed.

The draft EIS details the military's planned "live-fire" training exercises, particularly on Tinian and Pagan.

But the voluminous draft EIS and its technical content prompted Inos and lawmakers in the CNMI to write a letter of request for a six-month extension of its review, instead of the military's prescribed 45-day review period.

The Inos administration is also seeking experts outside the CNMI to study and further analyze the draft EIS.

"The military has responded to me and that they will go through the public hearings. It appears they will not make any decision until after all the scheduled public hearings are complete," Inos said.

The governor said he continues to meet with the military but only on the ad hoc level to discuss some details on the draft EIS. "But I think their schedule is already set for the hearings," Inos said.

The public hearings are set on Saipan and Tinian next week. Inos said he will attend the hearing on Saipan, but hinted that he might skip the hearing on Tinian.

"I don't want to interfere, so to speak, with the people of Tinian, so they may speak more freely," Inos said.

December 2017 that would result in the company "not qualifying for any tax relief under the certificate during the suspension period," and a reduction of their benefit cap from \$20 million to \$10 million.

The executive director said the resort was caught in a situation where they were not financially able to meet the QC terms. But he also added that

there is this "confusion out there that [the QC] program is an automatic giveaway."

A QC "doesn't mean you automatically get that relief," he

said. "The key there is performance. Under this program, you have to deliver the investment within a specified time."

"You have to meet that min-

imum threshold. If you don't, you will be in noncompliance forever. You will never get a certificate of compliance" for a tax year showing the amount your company is entitled to, he said.

In the resort's case, Sablan

said they have deployed their \$42-million investment per the QC. "The deployment of the investment is already there," he said, adding that this was a case where a company made an investment "that could otherwise go to Guam" or elsewhere.



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Lawmakers surround Gov. Eloy S. Inos, sitting in between DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and DOC Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, in a group photo during the proclamation of May as "Public Safety Awareness Month."

FESTIVAL

From Page 1

The artists were Ignacio Camacho Borja, Josepha Igisomar Teregeyo, Torcuato Maidesil Castro, Abel Olopai Pellegrino, Rosa Omar Tanin Castro, William I. Macaranas, James Francis McMahon Jr., and Ana Maria "Ding" Limes.

"God empowered him with mastery with his hands," master of ceremony John Oliver Gonzales said of Torcuato Castro, who is known for painting the seal of the Commonwealth that is featured in the islands' government offices.

EX-ROTA

From Page 1

ing of a controlled substance.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who decided on the misdemeanor charge, also found the defendant not guilty of attempted illegal possession of controlled substance.

"Mr. Toves, you are now a free man," Camacho told the defendant.

Toves burst into tears after hearing the verdict. His family members clapped and cried in jubilation.

Before rendering his verdict on the charge of attempted illegal possession of a controlled substance, Camacho discussed the evidence presented during the four-day trial.

Camacho said that based on the evidence presented in court, the government's case against Toves appeared doomed from the start.

Camacho found the authorities' informant, a Northern Marianas College employee,

Josepha Teregeyo, a National Endowment of the Arts awardee, shared her knowledge and skills with children because it taught them who and what they are. "We as a community should take the time to pass our knowledge to our younger generation, because it is the only way that we can preserve what is left of who we are," mistress of ceremony Catherine Perry said, quoting the late artist.

Ignacio Borja, also known as Ike Chandi, was a traditional artist and familiar face at festivals over the years.

Pellegrino brought "a lot of joy to those who heard his cre-

not credible.

The judge said the NMC employee claims that Toves, whom he does not know very well, just called him out of the blue and asked him to hand-carry "ice" to Rota.

Camacho said that, in December 2014, then-chief prosecutor Brian Flaherty filed an amended information containing the charges in this trial.

Camacho said that Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas was put in a very difficult position to prove a crime that was incorrectly charged.

The judge noted that Rota Department of Public Safety police officer Francis Manglona testified that Toves never touched or even tried to reach for the "ice."

Camacho said the video taken from Manglona's phone clearly shows that Toves had his hands in his pocket, and at one point handed his cellphone to a Rota Resort employee and then to Berlinda Flawau.

Camacho said Toves never made any physical movement to possess the "ice" at

ations," Perry said of the artist's guitar and song-playing.

Rosa Castro, or "Nan Chai, led the Talabwogh Women Stick dancing group. "When you were around her, you felt her love," said Perry.

Macaranas was remembered as an advocate of language and culture. He was once executive director of the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission and bilingual program teacher.

McMahon, another teacher and painter, was remembered for his service to the Public School System.

Lastly, the fellow dancers of Ana Maria Limes, who passed

away this week, performed a cultural dance in her memory.

"Ding, your contribution to Carolinian and Chamorro culture though song, dance and music will not be forgotten," said Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogunmoro in her remarks.

Unlike past festivals, this year's edition features Guam as the only off-island delegation. There is also a delegation from Timian and Rota.

The festival continues tonight, and on Saturday and Sunday. The festival also hosts the 5th Annual CNMI Art Competition, which is sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC.

rectly filed the crime of attempt, the court finds that the government has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that that crime occurred.

The trial began on Monday. Rapadas called 10 witnesses. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer, counsel for Toves, did not call any witness.

After the prosecution rested its case on Wednesday, Camacho granted Meyer's motion to acquit Toves on a charge of restricted use of government vehicle.

Police officers arrested Toves and then-Commonwealth Health Center administrative staff Berlinda Flawau in June 2014 for alleged conspiracy to commit trafficking of "ice" on Rota.

The two's arrest came about after police discovered, through a confidential source, that Flawau allegedly sent a package that contained 20 baggies of "ice" from Saipan to Toves on Rota on June 11, 2014. Officers allegedly seized \$1,000 worth of "ice" during the operation.

Inos salutes the CNMI's 'men and women in blue'

Gov. Eloy S. Inos led other officials at a ceremony proclaiming May as "Public Safety Awareness Month" in the CNMI.

Inos also thanked members of the CNMI's Department of Public Safety in the proclamation ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Thursday.

Inos, in a speech before members of the police force, said he is thankful for the "men and women in blue" for keeping the CNMI safe.

"The law enforcement agencies of the CNMI work tirelessly to protect our citizens, enforce our laws, and keep our neighborhoods safe. They report for duty knowing full well the dangers they face and sacrifices they may be called upon to make," Inos said. "We gather here once a year, to express our gratitude to the many of you

facing the challenges of apprehending crime."

The governor said he personally wants to acknowledge and thank the efforts of the police force.

"Thank you for being out there, I sleep good at night these days, because I know you are out there protecting our community," Inos said.

As part of the proclamation, May 10 to May 16 was also designated as "CNMI Police Week" and May 15, 2015, as "Peace Officers Memorial Day."

As part of the government's safety campaign, May 18 to May 31 was designated as "Click It or Ticket Mobilization" in the CNMI to urge all citizens to wear seatbelts when driving or riding on roadways. Further, May 16 to May 22 was designated as "CNMI Safe Boating Week." (Joel Pinaroc)

LIMES

From Page 1

anger management counseling and any other counseling recommended by the treatment provider of the Office of Adult Probation.

On Sept. 3, 2014, Wiseman terminated Sablan's probation after he was found in full compliance with his probation conditions.

Police detective Olympio S. Muña stated in his report that a police officer responded to a reported disturbance near the Oleai Store in San Jose on June 30, 2013, at 4:30pm.

Muña said the officer met with the suspect left in a gray car, he shouted at the victim "You go back to your island. Filipinos do not belong here. I'll come back and kill you."

The witness and another witness told police that before the suspect left in a gray car, he shouted at the victim "You go back to your island. Filipinos do not belong here. I'll come back and kill you."

On Tuesday night, police arrested Sablan for illegal possession of a controlled substance, disturbing the peace, and criminal trespass for allegedly harassing the Lisua family in Oleai on Sunday midnight.

At a bail hearing on Wednesday, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds revealed that Sablan is a person of interest in the murder of his wife, Limes.

Limes, 52, a former staff assistant of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), was found dead inside her house in Oleai on Monday shortly after noon.

Police said Limes showed signs of having been deceased for some time already, with fatal injuries to the head.

Police detective Rudolfo Saures Hermosilla Jr. stated in his report that when a police officer arrested Sablan on Sunday over the disturbance at Lisua family's house, he noticed what appeared to be bloodstains on Sablan's pants. The officer also saw scratches on Sablan's abdomen.

As of yesterday, no charges had been filed against Sablan over the murder of Limes.

Aviles said he was helpless because he was wearing his seatbelt and was stepping on the brakes as his car was in reverse.

Sablan walked away, then returned and confronted Aviles if he would call the police. Sablan attempted to punch him again, but the victim managed to evade the attack this time.

Sablan then threatened that he would return and kill Aviles. When Sablan drove off, the victim jotted down the license plate, ACH-137.

A witness told police that he saw Aviles bleeding on the head after the beating.

The witness and another witness told police that before the suspect left in a gray car, he shouted at the victim "You go back to your island. Filipinos do not belong here. I'll come back and kill you."

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres, fourth from left in front, joins Senate President Victor Hocog, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, justices, judges, new attorneys and guests during yesterday's Law Day proclamation signing and attorney admissions ceremony at the CNMI Supreme Court.

Castro says CNMI courthouses are deteriorating

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro said yesterday that the state of the Judiciary is not looking good, comparing it to an ambulance heading to the emergency room.

"Our courthouses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are deteriorating," said Castro in his opening remarks during a proclamation signing declaring May 1 as Law Day in the CNMI and attorney admissions ceremony held in the Supreme Court.

With federal funding being inconsistent and local funding subject to political pressures, Castro believes the long-term solution is a legislative initiative that will provide a constitutionally mandated minimum funding level for the Judiciary.

In the attorney admissions ceremony, Castro administered the oath of attorney for Kimberly Kay King-Hinds, A. Michailian T. McLoughlin, and Cong Nie, who recently passed their NMI Bar applications.

King-Hinds received her bachelor's degree from Loyola Marymount University and J.D. from the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law. She is currently an in-house counsel for the NMI Settlement Fund. She is the wife of assistant attorney general Chester Hinds.

McLoughlin received his bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and J.D. from the Golden Gate University School of Law.

Nie received his bachelor's degree from Tsinghua University in China and J.D. from the Vanderbilt Law School.

In his remarks, Castro pointed out that judicial employees have not had a raise in the last 15 years and that courthouse security on Saipan is strained to the breaking point.

He said private attorneys who are appointed to represent indigent persons are forced to work for months before being paid.

He also noted that the Judiciary on Saipan is operating on a skeleton crew, particularly the family court and probation office.

He said the problem began during the Trust Territory era when the Judiciary was treat-

ed as a "department" during the budget process rather than as the third branch of government.

"Now is the time for all three branches of our government to come together and provide sufficient funding to the Judiciary because tomorrow may be too late," Castro said.

The chief justice asked Gov. Eloy S. Inos and lawmakers to address the Judiciary's budgetary needs as contained in its 2015 budget request.

In the Judiciary's efforts to look for other sources of funding, Castro thanked Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio for spearheading efforts to secure federal funding.

Marianas High School senior English teacher Gretchen Decker, who is an alumna of the Judiciary's summer pre-law program, read the proclamation and delivered remarks.

In honor of the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, the American Bar Association has selected "Magna Carta: Symbol of Freedom Under Law" as its Law Day theme.

Decker briefly discussed the history of the Magna Carta, which she said is first and foremost a symbol of humanity's quest for freedom.

Decker said the job of instituting a just system that guarantees fairness for all citizens and all non-citizens as well is still a dream but the CNMI has made some progress.

In the CNMI today, she said, gun control, gay marriage, voting rights, Article 12, military training on the Commonwealth's limited land mass, to name a few, are current issues that leaders and law practitioners are encountering.

"I have the sincerest hope that the day will come when we have improved representation in Washington," she said.

Decker hopes that a more precise definition of what it means to be a part of the American family can reflect the desires and the sacrifices of the people of the CNMI.

Castro led the justices and judges as well as Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres, Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), in signing the proclamation declaring May 1 as Law Day in the CNMI.

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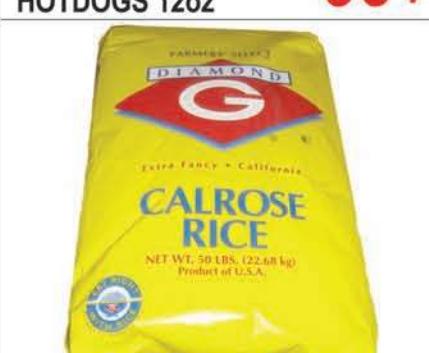
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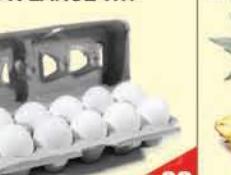
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Torres proclaims April 23 to May 2 as MMAC Week



Commonwealth Cancer Association board members and officers, members of the 2015 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee, Takecare/FHP staff and board members, lawmakers, Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and other supporters join in a group photo after a proclamation signing declaring April 23 to May 2 as MMAC Week.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed April 23 to May 2 as Marianas March Against Cancer Week yesterday, kicking off a flurry of activities leading to the Commonwealth Cancer Association's signature fundraising drive on May 1 to 2 at the Hopwood Junior High School field.

The proclamation signing took place at the TSL Plaza in the presence of CCA members, Takecare/FHP board members, and the 2015 MMAC committee.

Nora Sablan, 2015 MMAC committee member, read the proclamation.

The proclamation states that cancer is one of the top two leading causes of death in the CNMI and the second leading cause of death in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society, nearly half of all men and a little over one third of all women in the U.S. will develop cancer during their lifetime.

"Nonetheless, the risk of developing most types of cancer can be reduced by changes in a person's lifestyle by quitting smoking, eating a better diet, and increasing physical activity," Sablan read.

CCA will be collaborating with Division of Public Health under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and anti-cancer groups to provide cancer awareness, education, and outreach programs in the CNMI. They intend to educate the community about cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments and prevention programs.

Sablan encouraged everyone to join the fight against this deadly disease by participating in the upcoming MMAC.

Torres urged all community members to celebrate the week by honoring the memory of those who have lost the fight with the disease and to stand, march, and unite with all those who are still fighting cancer today.

Private sector urged to plan ahead due to increasing healthcare costs

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's private sector should start planning ahead for its health insurance needs to mitigate the increases in healthcare costs in the near future, according to Frank Campillo, plan administrator for Calvo's Select Care Health Plans in Hagatna, Guam.

Campillo is also urging the private sector to work with health insurance companies in the Commonwealth to find solutions to this increasing concern.

He outlined these recommendations in his speech during the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter's meeting yesterday on healthcare

cost trends for 2015 and Affordable Care Act updates at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Campillo said that healthcare cost has been increasing at a drastic rate since 1999. During that year, an average annual premium for a family went for only \$5,000 before ballooning to \$18,000 in 2014, while the \$2,000 average that covered a single person in 1999 is now a little over \$6,000.

For the CNMI, the government is now paying a little over \$400 a month on health plans and close to \$5,000 an-

nually. The CNMI is almost close to the same average annual premium that a single person receives as of 2014.

The healthcare trends that Campillo presented to SHRM were put together by various organizations and government agencies in the U.S.

According to his presentation, enrollment in high-deductible plans has tripled since 2009, as consumers took a greater stake in the health system, demanding more value.

So what is driving the increased cost in healthcare? Research demonstrates that when

hospitals consolidate, either merging with other hospitals or buying up physician practices, health care costs go up. Provider consolidation gives hospitals greater negotiating strength and limits competition, resulting in higher prices for services, higher costs for patients, and no improvement in the quality of care delivered.

In the CNMI, "we have members in the CNMI, we incur claims at Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., incur at local clinics and also in the pharmacy side," he said.

Drug cost increase
Dispensing of specialty drug medications represents less than

1 percent of all prescriptions, but these drugs now account for more than 25 percent of total prescription drug cost trends.

New specialty drugs coming to market and large price increases in generic drugs are the main driving forces of prescription drug plan cost trends, according to Campillo.

"For instance, the population for hepatitis C is concerning because there are millions of people that have hepatitis, but you now have two new drugs that are extremely expensive. The CNMI has been known to carry hepatitis A, B, and a small number of C," he said.

"But even if we only get about 10 patients of hepatitis C, that's a lot of money because these new drugs is what

each one of them is costing to treat a patient. The cost is about \$90,000," he added.

Despite the introduction of new and, in many cases, more innovative medical treatments, prescription drugs that have been around for years are getting more expensive.

One example is doxycycline—an antibiotic used for a number of infections such as Lyme disease, chronic prostatitis, sinusitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, acne, and others—went from \$20 per bottle back in 2013 to a whopping \$1,849 per bottle in 2014. That is an astounding 9,145 percent increase in only six months.

"Today's drugs are beginning to be a concern for health plans," he said.

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Hocog: SB 19-21 will not take away retirees' benefits

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) said Senate Bill 19-21 does not intend to take away the benefits of retirees, and that the retirees' needs are still a priority.

Hocog was the sponsor of SB 19-21.

More than 100 petitioners on Wednesday sent a letter to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, asking him to reject the bill.

The petition letter contends that certain amendments in SB 19-21 can be "detrimental to the livelihood of retirees and beneficiaries" who rely solely on retirement benefits.

SB 19-21 proposes to reallocate and transfer \$2 million from the license fee paid by casino licensee Best Sunshine International Ltd. to the Rota Municipal Treasury, thus changing the primary objective of the casino law, Public Law 18-56, the petition letter said.

However, Hocog maintained that the intent of SB 19-21 is "to transfer funds allocated for Rota and Tinian to their respective municipal treasury in order to effectively and efficiently manage, control, and account for its funds including the \$2 million from Public Law 18-56."

He explained that "the \$2 million allocated to Rota and Tinian each from the casino annual fee was negotiated after the retirement Settlement Fund



Hocog

A g r e e -
ment was
executed
by the Ex-
ecutive
Branch."

The \$2 mil-
lion was

not part of the Settlement Fund Agreement, Hocog said.

The petition claims that the amendment to reallocate and transfer the \$2-million fund to the Rota Municipal Treasurer changes the primary objective of PL 18-56 and this amendment deletes the mandate to pay the retirees first, as mandated by PL 18-56.

"When the casino bill was being negotiated, it was understood that the central government will utilize part of the first \$25 million of the initial payment, and \$10 million out of the \$15 million subsequent annual

license fee to cover the retirees' 25 percent pension. I negotiated the \$2 million for the benefit of the municipality and people of Rota, including the retirees from Rota. However, the \$2 million was never intended to be used solely for the retirees' pension cut," he explained.

Hocog also maintained that "I am cognizant of the needs of the retirees on Rota and I included language in S.B. 19-21 to ensure that the retirees' needs are satisfied."

Hocog cited Section 3 of SB 19-21 which "provides that the \$2 million shall be transferred to the Rota Municipal Treasury and appropriated by the Rota delegation as follows: (1) supplement of the First Senatorial District's retirees and beneficiaries' pension until such time that the Commonwealth government is able to pay the entire obligation; (2) payment of debt service of municipal loans and/or bonds issued by the First Senatorial District; and (3) for any local public purpose."

Hocog said the Rota retirees' concerns stated in the petition that was circulated regarding S.B. 19-21 "was based on misinformation and miscommunications."

The lawmaker also said if there are further questions regarding the matter, retirees or concerned residents are free to contact his office. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

ERRATUM

In the report "Rota retirees sign petition against HLB 19-21" published yesterday, April 22, "H.L.B. 19-21" should have been written as "S.B. 19-21."

The fifth paragraph of the report should also read: "S.B. 19-21 will still go through the House of Representatives before it is transmitted to the Office of the Governor for signing."

We apologize for the errors.



Santos

Representatives attended the recent Oral Cancer Health Forum during which attendees called for legislation against betel nut chewing.

Reps. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (Ind-Saipan), Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), and Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan) agreed that drafting leg-

islation against betel nut chewing might be a good proposition for the CNMI.

However, they aren't looking to ban betel nut chewing altogether.

Benavente and Attao said that taxing betel nut, creating violation fees, and other policies that may be similar to Public Law 16-46 or the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008 may help cut down on chewing betel nut. (Joel D. Pinaroc)

Bill seeks to regulate lime production

A bill introduced by Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) seeks to regulate the manufacture of lime, an ingredient in betel nut chew.

Santos said Senate Bill 19-37 also seeks to include lime—locally known as *afok*—into certain sections of the CNMI's existing laws on food and drug control.

Santos said the ingredients in manufacturing lime have changed over time. It is traditionally produced using coral.

The inception of Public Law 3-47 gave the Coastal Resource Management the authority to oversee and protect all coastal resources including coral. "As a result, the harvesting of corals to manufacture and produce *afok* or *bweesch* for personal and commercial use was eventually restricted," the bill said.

The bill also stated that "although *afok* or *bweesch* may not have a direct link to oral cancer or other deadly diseases, there is a great need to protect the people until concrete studies are done pertaining to *afok* and its link to oral cancer."

Santos' proposed legislation comes after several lawmakers said they are eyeing the idea of drafting a bill that will mandate stricter policies on betel nut chewing.

This comes after several members of the 19th House of



Early Signs of Autism

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Red flags to watch for from birth to age 3

Social

Children with autism may:

- ▀ Not share warm, joyful facial expressions, such as smiles by 6 months
- ▀ Not babble and coo by 12 months
- ▀ Not respond to their name by 12 months
- ▀ Use few or no gestures (e.g., does not wave goodbye, point, etc.) by 12 months
- ▀ Not play "pretend" games (pretend to "feed" a doll) by 18 months
- ▀ Avoid eye contact
- ▀ Avoid other people and prefer to play alone
- ▀ Prefer not to be held or cuddled
- ▀ Have delayed speech and language skills.

Behavioral

Children with autism may:

- ▀ Be very organized (e.g., line up toys or other objects)
- ▀ Get upset by minor changes
- ▀ Have odd movement patterns (e.g., flaps hands, rocks body, or spins self in circles)
- ▀ Have frequent temper tantrums
- ▀ Be overly active
- ▀ Purposely hurt themselves
- ▀ Repeat words or actions over and over
- ▀ Look at objects from unusual angles.

Other areas

Children with autism often:

- ▀ Are overly sensitive to touch, sounds, taste or smells
- ▀ Lack fear in dangerous situations
- ▀ Have an intense need for routines
- ▀ Have learning difficulties
- ▀ Lose skills they once had (for instance, stop saying words they were using).

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact your baby's doctor or call the Children's Developmental Assistance Center at **664-4841** for a free developmental screening.

Children with autism can learn, grow and succeed.

Early action is the key!



Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Christopher Yug receives \$1,000 cash prize from the Northern Marianas Sports Association. On Wednesday evening, April 22, 2015, Yug purchased two Lucky Seven tickets at the Green Consume Market in Chalan Laulau. Yug won \$5 from the first two tickets, having a gut feeling that he will win that evening, he went with his instincts and redeemed the winning prize for more Lucky Seven tickets. The lucky winner scratched the winning \$1,000 Lucky Seven ticket. There are more prizes to win! NMASA would like to bid good luck to all the players.

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The Flame Tree Arts Festival

The fire tree is the familiar red bloom towering over the *kalachuchi* and the *plumeria*, trees aflame with red flowers, abundantly prolific and growing profusely on either side of Mt. Tapuchau.

The flame trees on Saipan that are planted along Beach Road and Middle Road from Marpi to Obyan bloom from April to June and are used as the symbol this April 24 to 26 to gather the Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Who gets credit for bringing the tree to the islands—the Japanese in the islands' sugarcane fields or a resident who intentionally brought many seedlings in the '60s to plant—is immaterial. The arbor is the Commonwealth's official tree.

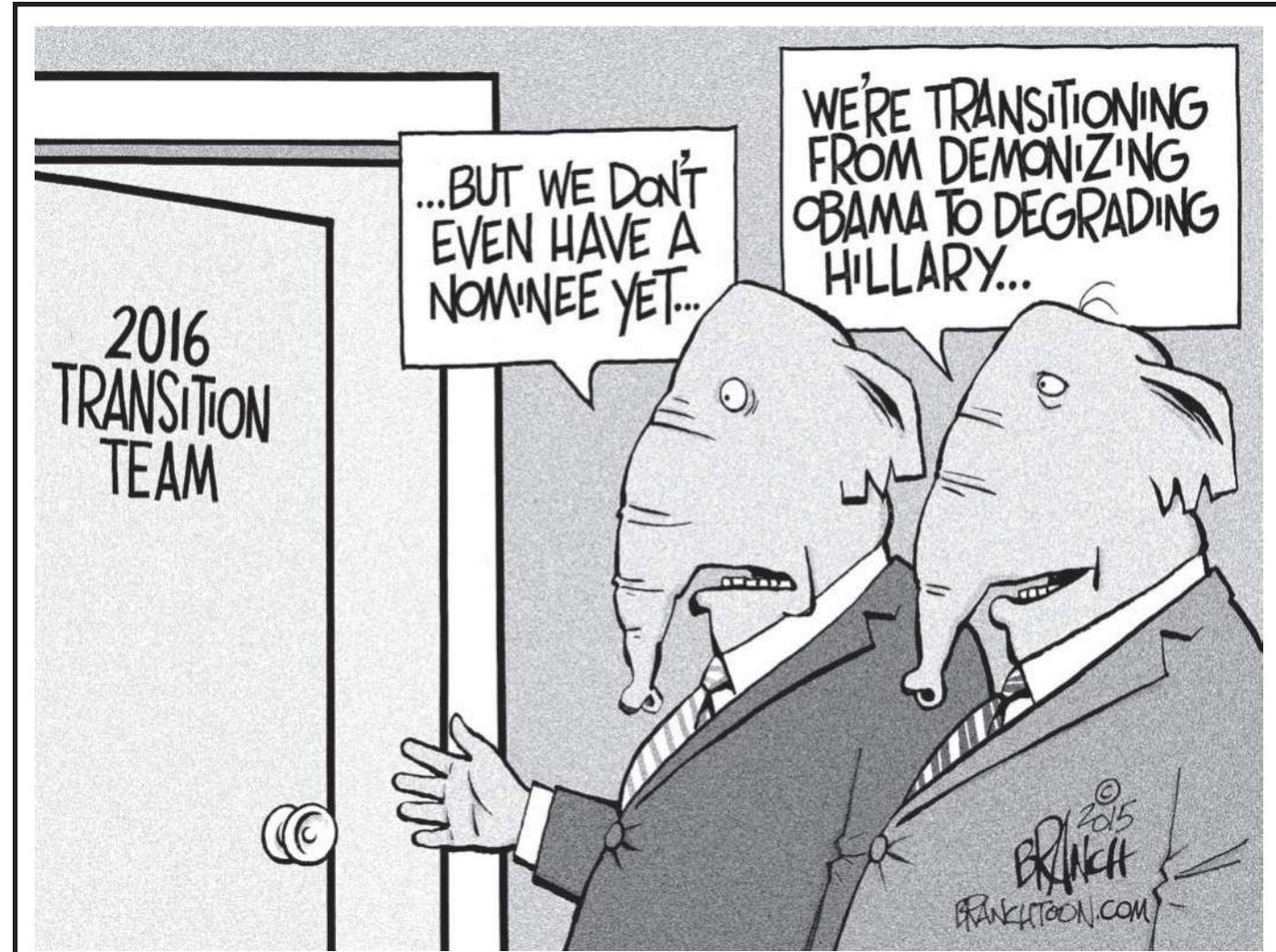
The Flame Tree Arts Festival features luscious cuisine that delights the gourmet, accompanied by undulations of hip-and-thigh swaying dances and chants, with the loud resonance of electric guitars plucked and strummed to tropical beats, and the wildly colorful works of art from sculptures, wooden and stone, to Gauguin-like brightness on canvas.

The food is savored by appreciative palates, with flavors that include the source of carbohydrate in the Micronesian diet, the taro and the cassava. Singly consumed, they taste bland, though the discriminating taste buds finds comfort in it. But liberally sprinkled with spices served the same way as rice is ladled in Southeast Asian kitchens, they make olfactory and culinary essence a matter of choice. The popular *asado*, ubiquitous roasts and barbecue, of pork, beef, mutton and fish, are standards in Micronesian beach parties and *utt* celebrations.

The dances invite audience participation—for the male, foot stamping with a loud shout, thrusting the spear in hand and hitting the sand with the hilt, slapping the hip and thigh, raising an arm with clenched fist, and shrugging and lifting the shoulder; for the female, thrusting and swaying of the hips (often seen as sassy and cheeky) while still looking demure, and wearing the *mwar-mwar* with the elegance of the sleek outrigger cutting into ocean currents! The thumping bass percussion then is amplified in car music like crashing waves.

The visual arts render the festival a must-see occasion for all. Commercialized of late with fees charged for artists to put up tents and displays—much to the chagrin of amateurs just wanting to show off stunning works—we encourage organizers to ensure the broad visibility in the exhibit of pro and amateur wares.

Then there are the actual flame trees (also written as one word, *flametrees*), shading the pathway from Garapan to Susupe. Others are bare from the shortage of rain (though displaying long pods) but the walk on the pathway is an easy stride. Either way, with the eats and beats that is always a treat, the five-pronged flower and the *plumeria* are above-the-ear ladies' ornaments, a sight always to behold. As you are, with tropical hat and sunshade, smartphone or camera, come feast at the festival!



Fear of doctors, vaccines in US and around the world

Doctors take a pledge to "First, do no harm." This credo is derived from the Hippocratic Oath—a sworn solemn duty doctors make when they embark on their career. The Hippocratic Oath is nothing to sneeze at; few other professions require a swearing of allegiance to a millennia old professional ethical and moral code.

Modern society deeply depends on doctors. Which is why recent international reactions against doctors—from mistrust to outright attack—represent a disturbing trend that can lead not only to an immediate threat to global health workers but can also precipitate that all-feared outbreak of uncontrollable epidemic.

Fear of doctors and vaccine programs is a worldwide phenomenon, from developing nations to the United States. American trepidation toward state-mandated vaccines in school drew demonstrators last week against California legislation. Protesters came to the capital to fight a change in immunization exemptions. Celebrities added fuel to the fire.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. stirred up a Sacramento crowd by challenging the legitimacy of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Kennedy spoke at the film screening of "Trace Amounts," linking vaccines to autism, a theory debunked by significant scientific evidence. He roused public emotion by saying vaccines are leading to a "holocaust." He later apologized for using the charged word.

Measles have made a comeback, and Disneyland recently became a disease hotspot. In 2000, the CDC declared measles eliminated in the United States, but the theme park's December outbreak has catalyzed growing concern for unvaccinated children.

Mice and rabbits are disproportionately infected in clinical testing labs. They also weigh heavily in the vaccine debate. The Disneyland outbreak made Mickey Mouse a symbol for the pro-vaccine argument, while former Playboy bunny and vocal skeptic Jenny McCarthy is the poster-girl of the anti-vaccine crowd.

Anti-vaxxers may need little medical proof to stop immunizations around the U.S., but in Pakistan, the backlash against vaccines has even less to do with medical science: It is fueled by a vaccination program that led to the killing of Osama bin Laden.

The CIA discovered bin Laden after a fake Hepatitis B vaccination program got his DNA. Good news, except it led to fear of—and in some cases, a ban on—foreign aid workers. Hoping to calm the situation, the CIA has since promised not to use medical programs as cover.

Government regimes now use past CIA covert actions as an excuse to attack medical personnel. But violence against aid workers predated the bin Laden ploy; the Taliban banned polio vaccines long before he was killed. Attacks on aid workers, however, have steadily increased since the SEAL Team Six raid in 2011. Just last month, Afghan gunmen killed three polio workers.

Militants continue to delegitimize anti-polio aid workers, creat-

By MARKOS KOUNALAKIS

The Sacramento Bee

Markos Kounalakis is a research fellow at Central European University and a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. Contact him at markos@stanford.edu and follow him on Twitter @KounalakisM. He wrote this for The Sacramento Bee.



ing new pressures on Pakistan's largest international aid agency, Save the Children—the NGO linked to the now-imprisoned doctor who identified bin Laden. The organization denies the claim, but remains the target of suspicion and government restrictions. In light of this backlash, Pakistan has become a polio hotspot. In 2014, the World Health Organization reported that 306 of the 359 worldwide cases of polio were in Pakistan. By contrast, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation previously helped eradicate polio in nearby—and democratic—India.

Authoritarians and conspiracy theorists continue to fuel attacks against medical aid workers who are also in grave danger because they often operate in areas of armed conflict. The Medecins Sans Frontiers film, "Access to the Danger Zone," explores what it's like to navigate the war zones of Somalia, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Yemen, recent airstrikes have put medical facilities, even makeshift ones, in danger of becoming collateral damage.

If hostile patients and danger zones are not enough, international medical workers are also threatened with infection. Ebola became notorious for jumping from patient to health worker, as with nurse Nina Pham, who is now suing Texas Health Resources for lack of proper training and equipment.

Ebola protective gear and blood tests fed fear in the local populations, too. In Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, patients ran and hid from doctors because of conspiracy rumors that health workers were intentionally spreading the disease. Ensuing panic, according to United Nations cited reports, led to "attacks on Ebola treatment centers, hospitals and even health personnel."

Even the surest plans for disease control can have unexpected consequences. In Uganda, international aid often comes in the form of effective anti-malaria mosquito nets. But many Ugandans instead use the nets for fishing. This not only fails to prevent malaria, it contaminates local water sources with insecticide.

Doctors were once looked upon as gods. After all, they deliver life and save lives. Certainly medical workers do God's work. From Anaheim to Abbottabad, the shot heard round the world should remain a doctor's inoculating hypodermic needle—it usually does no harm.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Refried words and thresholds

Thanks to some insightful feedback from last week's column, we're going to re-fry some of that fare and dig into it again. There are some little ideas here and a big one, too. We can list the little ones on the menu as "Communicating with Tourists" or "Thinking about Words." The big idea is: "Thresholds—They're Everywhere!"

The house specialty last week, in case you missed it, was some advice given to me by an American guy who succeeded in learning Mandarin Chinese. He said that once he could wield a vocabulary of 3,000 words, he could finally enter the virtuous cycle where he spoke well enough to actually have a basic conversation that, in turn, allowed him to improve his Mandarin skills.

OK; so much for our flashback. It comes as a lot of people are grappling with this sort of stuff, on Saipan as well as points beyond local horizons. So we'll note a few related tidbits and then we'll get all big-picture and strategic about stuff and contemplate the notion of thresholds.

One alert reader mentioned the use of smartphones coupled with Google Translate, and said that it can perform translations via human voice input and then synthesized voice output. I haven't tried this, but it sounds cool. As far as I'm concerned, the more tools available for communicating, the better, especially when dealing with tourists who come from a variety of nations.

Meanwhile, getting back to this vocabulary business, two other folks have pointed out that merely memorizing vocabulary is not an effective way to approach a language. Well, I sure agree with that, since it's not a technique that I'd use in any language, including my native tongue. For me, and most people I know, acquiring useful words bit by bit, and folding them into our daily lives, makes for more effective linguistic assimilation than wholesale rote does.

Misreading navigational tools

It's troubling when economic dystopia—where nothing works—freezes or is fossilized on the side of imperial Capital Hill to deteriorate further. Do the guys and gals understand that negligence in perpetuity drives abject poverty deeper? Any idea where these guys have gone?

I've gone soul-searching to understand where perception may have gone astray as to metastasize into a mountain of negligence and grand acquiescence. Is contentment in the sea of discontent the new fad in town?

Has the Sisyphus complex infected people upstairs? This complex is a lifetime punishment for Sisyphus, a god of sort thousands of years ago. It entails his rolling a huge boulder (rock) up the hill. Then watch it roll down. He returns and repeats it all day long.

The rock-rolling metaphor may seem quizzically strange. But it's pandemic among politicians who obviously are lost or oblivious to the deepening economic conditions at home. It seems there's contentment employing the Sisyphus complex wrapped in grand mafiana.

I probed their individual mid-level careers to see if it ever involved substantive policy formulation. There's nothing up that alley. You dig further to get clarity why there's more misses than hits on policy matters. There stood the glaring answer in the lack of depth of perception what policymaking entails. It isn't even measur-

I have, however, known a few people with incredible powers of memorization who could memorize long lists of vocabulary.

So, pragmatist that I am, I just shrug and say, "Whatever works."

But let's not swing at a straw-man here. The Chinese-speaking American who shared his 3,000 word observation never said, or even implied, that he built up his base vocabulary by memorizing word lists. What he said was that when his vocabulary hit that fatal point, things got better for him.

Where that point is drawn isn't really the big issue. The big issue is that the point exists in the first place.

We're talking about a threshold at which a given amount of input yields greater results (output) than it used to. Depending on the context, there are different words that are aimed at this general notion, such as "inflection point" or "tipping point."

To heed the context that we started with, the learning realm, people often talk about the "learning curve," and contemplate the point at which a little bit more studying yields amplified results. By contrast, they also contemplate a "plateau" in the learning curve, where additional amounts of studying seem to yield little, if any, results. If you study something long enough, you'll probably encounter both realms eventually.

But studying is an easy case to ponder, since we're usually thinking about just one input, such as time reading a textbook, or the number words learned, or something else simple like that. Other contexts get far more tangled, such as a factory that has multiple inputs to consider in order to maximize its profits. This is a textbook drill in microeconomics, especially if the factory has such a large share of the market that the more units it produces, the lower the market drives the price for them. Intuition doesn't work here, and, furthermore, few relationships, if any, are linear.

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



One of the challenging things about modern life is that we can't really see the relationships between our inputs (effort, money, time, etc.) and the outputs (success, money, happiness, etc.). For example, if you double the amount of time you work this week, will you get double the reward? That's a ridiculously simple question, so overly simplistic it's not even applicable to most of our lives, but you could still write an entire book about the answer.

In most fields I'm aware of, the defining characteristic of an expert is someone who understands how input and output are related, and, furthermore, how outside events can, or might, change those relationships. If you enjoy thinking big thoughts about this stuff, I'll mention, as I often do, Nassim Nicholas Taleb who wrote, among other books, *Antifragile*.

Well, we've hit pretty big-picture stuff here, but that's what makes it all so fun. Whether we're studying a language, running a business, making investments, buying insurance, designing an engine, or planning an exercise routine, the relationship between what we put into it, and what we get out of it, is never simple.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Protect your property

HAFA ADAI, everyone. I just wanted to drop a note and give some friendly advice as it relates to your property and/or your assets. This is sort of a community announcement, if you will, from my heart to all of you.

In my travels recently I have been hearing that a few people have transferred their property over to some individuals, promising unrealistic amounts of money value for them. These individuals play upon your desperation for cash today and by planting this idea in your head that your property is worth a very large amount, they hope that you will warranty deed or quitclaim deed your property over to them so they can transact this deal for you. In fact, when you ask them why you need to give them a deed, they tell you it's because they will put it under a company and you will be part of that company or that the buyer will only deal with that company. The bottom line is this is a scam and fraud no matter how you look at it. These people are taking advantage of our economic situation, your limited knowledge about real estate laws, and more importantly, the fact that most victims cannot afford to hire an attorney when they do realize they have been scammed and do not know where to turn for help.

Please do not ever sign over your rights, either in long-term lease or deed of any kind to a third party who has not paid you at the same time what you have agreed upon. Anyone asking you to do this, tell them you need to confer with your attorney before you do anything, then go arrange a free consultation. Most likely the attorney you see will already know of the person who is trying to scam you, at which time he or she can give you the best advice to move forward safely in protecting your assets and property from this happening to you. If you know of anyone trying to do this to a member of your family, please let your family know to come see you first before they do anything with those people so you can point them in the right direction.

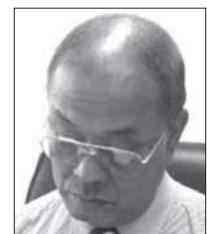
Family and estate planning is an important process that helps to clarify who is entitled to your assets and property in case something happens to you. It prevents the cost of probate, and family infighting and greed for assets you left behind. The document for this is called a "simple will" and once done will be locked away at the court house, safe and secure for the time when it is needed. An attorney's office can do this for you, you can buy a package online, or check this Web page on how to do it for free for you and your family's future: <http://peepshowcustom.wix.com/spi-enm#!community-services-page/c1fy6>

Michael E. Dilley

Papago, Saipan

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune* and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Political adolescence

Political maturity is sadly at its adolescence. Substantive policy matters seem fearfully ghostly contraptions thus most prefer avoiding them at all cost. Is this because it requires use of the critical thinking process?

How about an active and proactive role buckling down to policies on health, education, economy, alternative energy, money for basic infrastructure, wages and salaries, and other constructive policies capable of moving the needle of growth upward?

Or are we stuck in the filthy mud puddle of yesteryear's leadership conveniently gift-wrapped in empty followership? Someone once said that evil triumphs where men of good intentions sit idly by.

Situational poverty

I've seen the worst of times to which we bounced right back with real resiliency. The obligation of freeing our canoe that's stuck in the sands of bankruptcy at the harbor requires paradigm change and employment of powerful positive ideas.

The elected elite is charged with navigating our sinking canoe, difficult as it may be. Take a closer look at your tools on the navigational chart. The answers are staring at you 24/7. It's all a matter of working the clock to change conditions.

Change is imperative lest we'd focus on you to unleash our final disposition. How much longer would you drag our people through the streets of situational abject poverty?

Tinted cars and politicians

A thoughtful friend related that throughout the country, safety remains paramount in the use of automobiles. It includes prohibiting tinted cars for a simple reason: SAFETY!

Appalling that while running for office, politicians all wanted visibility. After the election it turns into invisibility.

What would you say if someone fatally slams a family car because it is as dark as your tint; runs over a school kid but can't see the driver behind his dark windshield; bumps your car but can't tell who is behind the wheel, among others?

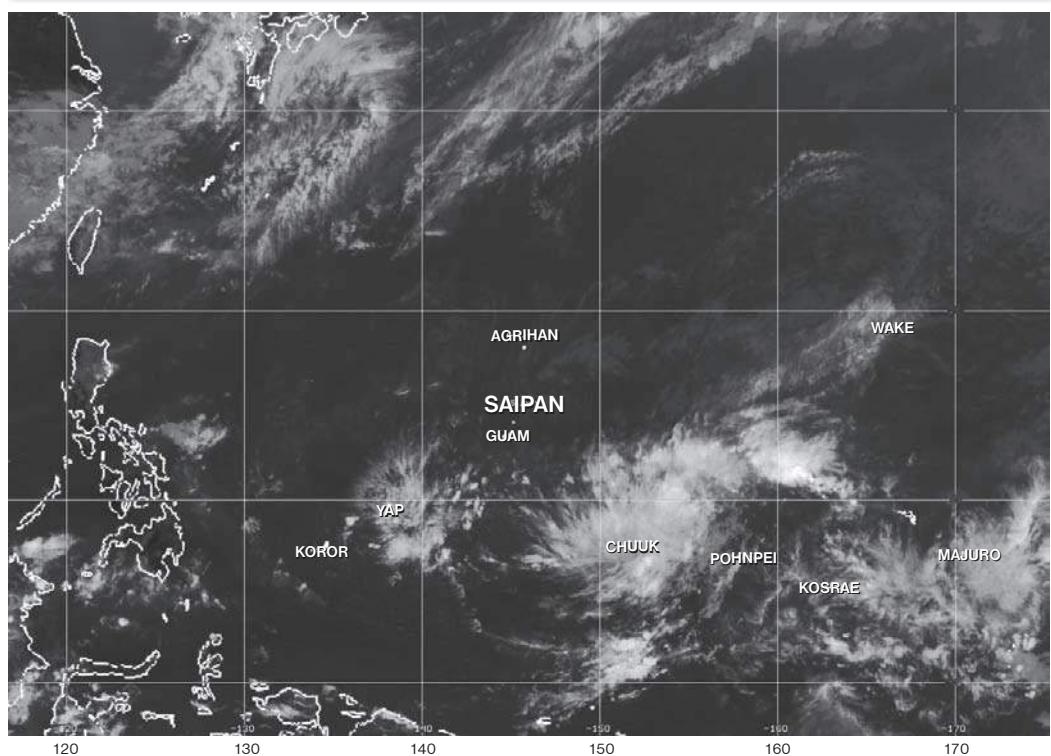
It doesn't even take common sense to know why the safety of others is paramount 24/7. Finally, what would legislators say if a deranged person rolls his tinted car window down and fires an auto-rifle across a school campus or shopping center?

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▾ 75°	▲ 86° ▾ 75°	▲ 86° ▾ 75°	▲ 86° ▾ 75°	▲ 86° ▾ 75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches westward from 17N180E to south of Wake Island at 18N167E to end east of the Mariana Islands at 16N148E. Scattered showers are seen around Wake Island between 19N and 21N from 161E to 169E. A near-equatorial trough stretches northeastward from 1N130E to a weak circulation centered between Yap and Chuuk at 6N146E. The trough then turns southeastward to end at EQ162E. Another surface trough runs from the center of the circulation northeastward to 10N162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located around Chuuk and west of Pohnpei between 5N and 12N from 149E to 157E and NE of Pohnpei between 11N and 13N from 158E to 163E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers south of Kwajalein between the equator and 7N from 166E to 169E. A tropical disturbance southeast of Majuro is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over and east of Majuro between 2N and 8N from 171E to 176E between 6N and 9N from 177E to the dateline and over Tarawa between the equator and 2N from 170E to 177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▾ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 90 ▾ 80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▾ 80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▾ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▾ 78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▾ 77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 82

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 69 ▾ 60
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 83 ▾ 53
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79 ▾ 70
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84 ▾ 72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▾ 43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▾ 55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 93 ▾ 75
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 69 ▾ 47
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▾ 75
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 55 ▾ 39
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▾ 53
Paris	Sunny	▲ 71 ▾ 49
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▾ 47
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▾ 56
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 54 ▾ 41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 71 ▾ 45
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▾ 56
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 72 ▾ 55
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 60 ▾ 42

Tides

1:23 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:57 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:37 AM	11:41 PM
Saturday	11:29 AM	
Sunday	12:19 PM	12:28 AM
Monday	1:08 PM	1:11 AM
Tuesday	1:55 PM	1:52 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 2, 2015

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ623	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ624	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4				

'Militarization' will also impact CNMI's tourism

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Militarization" of the CNMI will affect the Commonwealth on several fronts, and one of those critical areas is its tourism industry.

CNMI PERSPECTIVES

The impending militarization of the Commonwealth

This is an occasional addendum to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion section, soliciting the viewpoints, opinions, and thoughts of experts, academics, and members of the public on a specific topic.

CNMI historian and former educator Samuel McPhetres said the Commonwealth is poised to have a boom in its tourism industry, with several hotels and resorts being developed.

"How many hotel rooms are there now on Saipan? How many rooms and how many tourists?" McPhetres said.

Based on recent numbers

declared by developers that are actively seeking hotel constructions, the number of hotel rooms could swell to 10,000. There are also several, albeit smaller projects, all related to tourism, such as boutique hotels and high-end, 5-star class hotels. Best Sunshine International, Ltd. alone is projecting some 4,000 rooms.

These "no fly zones" will directly affect regular airlines plying the CNMI, as well as chartered flights.

"Flights on Saipan and Tinian might be handicapped," McPhetres said.

The draft environmental impact statement on the military exercises specifies the airspace that the military will need once the exercises start.

Credit to the military

McPhetres added that it is right to give credit to the military, because all indications seem to point that the military is looking to "minimize damage."

In the draft EIS, the military has suggested alternate routes that sea and air vessels can take.

"Give them for setting up this committee. That is a good sign. They are willing to make an effort to minimize the damage," he said.

"And there are more hotels going up on the island," McPhetres said.

He said all these hotels and resorts all have their "pipelines" of tourism-related chartered flights.

And this is where the possible impact could happen, McPhetres said, noting that a military exercise will entail "no fly zones" once the exercises begin.

Predicting possible scenarios

McPhetres earlier pointed out that the CNMI does not have local expertise to fully review a draft EIS on "live fire" exercises on Tinian and Pagan.

But aside from the lack of local expertise, McPhetres said he finds it difficult to predict a sce-

nario—if and when the military exercises happen—because as of today, "we still do not know what the military is planning."

The government has been given 60 days to comment on the EIS, which was deemed too short a window, and requests have now been sent to the military to extend this deadline to six months.

The U.S. military said it is eyeing to give a decision on the request by the first or second week of May.

live munitions on Tinian and drop "inert" bombs on Pagan—which, as expected—drew an uproar.



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This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H25MC06112, Community-Based Integrated Service Systems - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.

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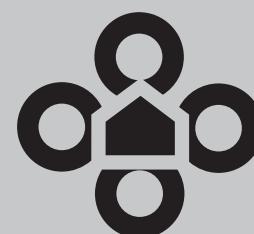
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Now is our turn to protect our islands

The U.S. military plans to turn our islands into bombing ranges.

They've been planning it for years. We see them coming and going—they stay in the best hotels, rent nice cars, and eat in the best restaurants. They and their highly paid consultants charter boats and helicopters, hire local guides and head out to the Northern Islands to see what we've got—to decide what they're going to take.

They'll ask us first, and if we say no, they'll just use eminent domain to take what they want anyway. There is no question in their minds about that.

Or is there? Do they really believe that it is going to go that way? I wonder.

When they're back on Saipan

after a long day of inventorying our islands, deciding what they want, after they've had a massage and a drink by the pool and headed up to their rooms, when their head hits the feather pillow and they exhale loudly and begin to drop off to sleep, I wonder if there isn't a nagging little voice that whispers... just at that moment when consciousness is receding..."What about Congress?"

Yes, there is a fly in the ointment.

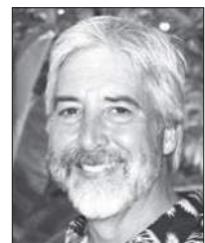
The military's problem lies with the Covenant Agreement. It clearly states that the federal government cannot exercise eminent domain to take CNMI land unless it is duly authorized by the United States Congress. This means that the military

has to convince Congress that forcibly taking two of the four major islands of an American Commonwealth, whose economy is based on tourism, and using them for bombing ranges is a good idea. They have to convince Congress to disregard the expressed opposition of the governor, the lieutenant governor, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the mayors of Tinian and the Northern Islands, the Municipal Councils, the business leaders, the cultural leaders and pretty much everyone else living here.

Congress isn't going to be easily convinced. It was Congress that enacted both the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

By PETER J. PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Peter J. Perez has been an active member of the worldwide Chamorro community since the 1990s when he founded Chamorro.com to promote awareness of Chamorro cultural and social issues. In 2004 he co-founded the grassroots activists group PaganWatch. He was on the project that built the 47-foot "Chelu" Chamorro Flying Proa and is founder and president of the CNMI non-profit 500 Sails, Inc. In 2012, Perez and his wife Emma were named Ambassadors-at-Large by the Governor of Guam.

These Acts, designed to protect the nation's historical and natural resources, are forcing the military to endure Section 106 Review (NHPA) and to provide environmental assessments and impact statements (NEPA) that all stakeholders can review for accuracy, completeness, and then comment upon. These requirements make it difficult for the military to hide the facts that their bombing will destroy historic and cultural treasures, cause catastrophic damage to the environment, waste our precious natural resources, and deny us our right to move freely between our islands. They

See NOW on next page

of whom are "outsiders" who have neither physical nor cultural connection to the NMDs' sacred homelands that will be permanently destroyed.

■ Due to the complexity and highly technical language contained in the EIS, NMDC requests for more adequate time, preferably two years, for the CNMI government and its leaders, private sector, community organizations, and individuals to review and understand the scope and permanent destruction to their cultural homeland, ocean and marine environment, and their future survival.

■ The Northern Marianas
See NO TO on next page

'No to any US military bombings in the CNMI'

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t what cost? What would remain of our already small islands? Do Northern Marianas descendants know about and understand what will happen to their sacred cultural homeland if the U.S. military is allowed to conduct live fire and bombing trainings in their lands? Will NMDs allow the U.S. military to permanently destroy their sacred cultural homeland and surrounding marine environments and displace their social and cultural livelihoods like Bikini and Enewetak in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Vieques Island in Puerto Rico, Kahoolawe in Hawaii, and others?

tok in the Republic of the Mar-

shall Islands, Vieques Island in

Puerto Rico, Kahoolawe in

Hawaii, and others?

These are but a few questions that NMDs and fellow residents are extremely concerned about as they consider their future survival against uncertainties and lack of specifics by the U.S. federal government and its military. The more than 1,000 pages draft environmental impact statements spread over almost 10 chapters were prepared by paid consultants and commissioned by the U.S. military, all

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE CNMI JOINT MILITARY TRAINING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The U.S. military announces the availability of the CNMI Joint Military Training Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) for public review. The Draft EIS/OEIS evaluates the potential impacts associated with the establishment of a series of live-fire ranges, training courses and maneuver areas in the CNMI (Tinian and Pagan) to reduce existing joint service training deficiencies and meet U.S. Pacific Command Service Components' unfilled unit and combined level training requirements in the Western Pacific. Existing military training areas and support facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the CNMI are insufficient to support U.S. military training requirements. U.S. military training capabilities and capacity improvements are needed in the CNMI to ensure that the U.S. military can meet their U.S. Code Title 10 requirements to maintain, equip, and train combat and humanitarian forces in the Western Pacific.

The publication of the Notice of Public Meetings in the Federal Register on April 3, 2015 initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment period for the CNMI Joint Military Training Draft EIS/OEIS. Comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS may be submitted during the 60-day public comment period starting on April 3, 2015 Hawaii Standard Time (HST) (April 4, 2015 Chamorro Standard Time [ChST]). Comments should be postmarked or received by June 2, 2015 HST (June 3, 2015 ChST). Government agencies, private-sector organizations, and the public are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process and public meetings for the Draft EIS/OEIS. The U.S. Marine Corps on behalf of U.S. Pacific Command will host public meetings on Saipan and Tinian.

The public is invited to attend the following public meetings:

SAIPAN:

- Wednesday, April 29, 2015
Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Friday, May 1, 2015
Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

TINIAN:

- Thursday, April 30, 2015
Tinian Junior Senior High School Cafeteria
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Each meeting will begin with an open house session where the public can learn more about the proposed action and potential environmental impacts from project team members and subject matter experts. A public hearing will follow the open house. In the interest of available time, participants will be limited to three minutes to ensure all who wish to submit verbal comments have an opportunity to do so. A Chamorro and Carolinian interpreter will be available.

Concurrent with the NEPA process, the U.S. military is conducting National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation regarding potential effects of the proposed action on historic properties. During each of the above meetings, the U.S. military will hold NHPA Section 106 information sessions in a separate area where subject matter experts will explain the NHPA Section 106 process and solicit public input on the effects of the proposed action on historic properties.

There are three ways to submit written comments: (1) providing comments at one of the public meetings; (2) submitting comments through the project website: www.CNMIJointMilitaryTrainingEIS.com; and (3) mailing comments postmarked by June 3, 2015 ChST to:

Mail comments to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Attn: 09PA, Public Affairs Office
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
JBPHH, HI 96860-3134

NO TO**From Page 14**

Descent Corp. demands that the federal government and its military be strictly and unconditionally held accountable for their actions associated with decades of militarization to date by requesting that an independent environmental impacts study be conducted to determine the effects on marine ecosystems and surrounding lands—major sources of subsistence livelihoods for NMDs—from the years of military aerial target bombings on Farallon de Mendinilla.

- This on top of the deleterious and permanent chemical contamination of the entire Marianas from the military assault and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) abandoned and stored throughout since World War II.
- Therefore, in view of the compelling and clear present dangers and unlimited risk exposures to the lives, health, and safety of the people of the Marianas from further U.S. military bombings and in order to preserve their sacred cultural homeland and sanctity of the lives of NMDs and residents now and the future generation without any undue disturbances and permanent destructions, the Northern Marianas Descent Corp. unequivocally opposes any U.S. military bombing trainings in the entire Mariana Islands.

NMDC strongly invites and urges residents of the CNMI

to attend the scheduled public meetings next week during CHamoru Standard Time (CHST):

- Wednesday, April 29, 2015, from 5pm to 8pm, Saipan Southern High School cafeteria
- Thursday, April 30, 2015, from 5pm to 8pm, Tinian Junior Senior High School cafeteria
- Friday, May 1, 2015, from 5pm to 8pm, Garapan Elementary School

NMDC equally urges residents to submit and register their comments at the hearings and/or online by visiting <http://www.cnmijointmilitarytrainingeis.com/>. Incidentally, the U.S. military canceled earlier proposals to use sacred lands in Pagat, Guam, due largely to the overwhelming opposition of tens of thousands of comments that were submitted by Guam residents earlier in 2012, which is considered an unprecedented, historic feat and a hopeful demonstration of undisputed solidarity.

NMDC is a legally chartered, duly licensed non-profit community based organization whose members are local persons of Northern Marianas descent, incorporated to conduct its community affairs on Saipan, Tinian, Luta, and later in the Northern Islands. They also plan on conducting other cultural, family fun, and fundraising activities annually all aimed at generating community advocacy and defraying the costs associated with hosting such events. If you are interested to join, to contribute, or to learn more, email nmdcorp@gmail.com.

NOW**From Page 14**

are revealing the immediate and long-term threat these activities represent to our health and wellbeing.

The military faces a serious uphill battle. It is an interesting battle in that the hill is getting steeper by the minute as the public wakes to the danger. The

military didn't expect this. They didn't think we would fight. They didn't think we knew how.

There is frowning and stern faces at the hotel poolside these days. But on our faces are more smiles than frowns. We are coming together as a community. We're fighting back. We are becoming acutely aware of our own power—the power that comes from clarity, purpose,

and being on the side of what is clearly right. This is probably how Londoners felt during the London Blitz. Fear gave way to courage. They stood up to the Germans. They had resolve. They refused to give in. The Nazis had the most powerful army the world had ever seen. They literally threw everything they had at the Londoners, showering the city with bombs

and rockets launched from the French shore. And yet, despite it all, they never did step foot on the island.

Our islands are among the most beautiful places in the world. They have protected and sustained us for thousands of years. Now it is our turn to protect them. We will stand up for our islands. We will not let them be destroyed.



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1M-gallon water tank project in Puerto Rico nearly done

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is preparing for the completion of a multimillion-dollar project that figures prominently in the utility's ability to deliver reliable water service to customers in Puerto Rico and the surrounding communities.

In 2014, the CNMI Water Task Force, in partnership with CUC, began work on the replacement of the dilapidated Puerto Rico water storage tank after an inspection revealed the failure of roof support rafters and other weaknesses in the tank that threatened failure.

The project was designed by Duenas, Camacho & Associates and construction of the tank was contracted to AIC Marianas. The first phase of the project began in August 2014 with the

demolition of the pre-existing tank. Once completed, the welded steel tank will raise the level of water service provided to customers in Garapan, Puerto Rico, Lower Base, and Sadog Tasi for the next 30 years.

The \$2-million project is funded through a \$1.5-million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and \$500,000 in matching funds from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

As the project nears completion, CUC continues work on additional major water projects, including the replacement of the Papago reservoir, better known as the former "Super Blue" tank.

This ongoing project was also identified as a critical need for continued reliable water storage

in Papago and the neighboring communities. The 500,000-gallon welded steel tank has been dismantled and the foundation for the new 300,000-gallon pre-stressed reinforced concrete tank is already in place.

The \$1.4-million project is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency through a Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund grant. The construction of the tank will take an estimated four months to complete and is scheduled to begin in May 2015.

CUC customers in Papago, San Vicente, and portions of Dandan, As Lito, and Fina-sis who would otherwise be served by the Papago reservoir are currently served by temporary tanks with limited storage

to mitigate water service interruptions during the construction of the new tank.

CUC has also identified tanks for replacement in the villages of Gualo Rai and San Vicente.

An inspection of the 200,000-gallon Gualo Rai tank revealed severe corrosion of the welded steel tank shell that threatens serviceability. The project has been identified as a critical need for continued reliable water storage in the Gualo Rai community. Temporary storage is planned to provide limited water service while the replacement tank is being built.

As with the Puerto Rico tank replacement, this is a Water Task Force project. The contact was awarded to USA Fanter Inc.; however, work on the

Gualo Rai project will not proceed until the Puerto Rico tank replacement is completed.

The 500,000-gallon welded steel tank in San Vicente also needs to be replaced. CUC engineers and the tank inspection consultant determined this tank should be replaced as soon as funding is available. Until the tank is replaced, the water level in the tank has been reduced to ensure tank safety. As a result, water service hours may be re-

duced periodically and service pressures will be lower.

CUC encourages all customers in the affected communities to conserve water and those that have water tanks and cisterns to take steps to make sure that their on-site equipment is fully functional and sanitary.

For more information about the projects, contact the CUC Water Division at (670) 322-5030/31 or the Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). (CUC)

Deferred maintenance projects at PSS set to start this summer

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An Office of Insular Affairs project addressing deferred maintenance at Public School System schools is set to begin this summer, according to Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero.

OIA-contracted architects and engineers recently gave a presentation to PSS on the implementation of this project, according to Guerrero. They recommended that project priorities be dealt with at same time if needed, to cost-save.

OIA listed electrical, structure, exterior, plumbing, roofing, interior, and mechanical as the areas of priority in their 2013 "Assessment of Classroom and Buildings" report. The office recommended that insular governors set aside \$1 million per year for this five-year project.

The project this year focuses on the PSS electrical systems, which for some schools are reportedly not to code. PSS schools are 36 years old on average, according to OIA.

"OIA was basically saying

that perhaps when you are dealing with a specific building, you might want to address other things identified in the priorities so you do it at one time," said Guerrero of the presentation.

"They wanted to do a more methodological way of dealing with an issue and still address one" priority for cost-saving reasons, he said.

He explained that work on electrical might be redone when they work on another priority, like the building's structure.

"We are talking about Phase 3. Phase 3 is the implementation. That's why they are sending the architects and engineers out to make sure we coordinate things in terms of what else we need to consider."

He disclosed the project would start this summer "once school is out."

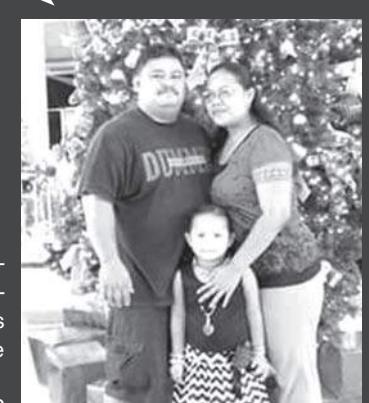
Electrical systems in public schools were the most flagged by the OIA in their 2013 report. To name a few, Kagman Elementary School was flagged 11 times for electrical "hazardous" conditions, while the then-San Vicente Elementary School was flagged 10 times, according to OIA.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 2nd birthday to our smart, loving and sweet baby boy, Jonoah Zeke Polig Santos! We wish for nothing but the best for you son! Continue to be the silly, talkative and naughty boy that you are! We love you baby! Love, Mommy and Daddy.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to the best husband and daddy ever! Thank you for everything you have done for us. Have a wonderful and blessed day. We love you. Greetings come from your wife, Kobe, Kaleigh, and Keownn.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our princess, Jarian Elizabeth Mettao Sablan! May God bless you always baby! Much love from Mommy and Daddy.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ORAL CANCER

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, oral cancer kills more people in the U.S. than other more widely known forms of cancers? In 2014, approximately 43,250 people were diagnosed with oral cancer and oral pharyngeal (posterior/rear of the mouth) cancer in the U.S. Large number (66%) of these individuals was diagnosed as late stage cancers, only (57%) of them will survive five years.

Late discovery and diagnosis are major factors in high death rate. If oral cancer can be detected early (stage one or two) the survival rate is 80% to 90%, but when found on a later stage (stage three or four), the chances of survival will drop to 20% to 30%. In the U.S., two thirds of the diagnosed cases will be on the late stage (three or four).

The good news is that a dentist or doctor can see or feel the precancerous tissue changes or an early cancer, finding it at the most curable stages. The examination will only take 3 minutes of your time.

CNMI Cases

One of the leading causes of Oral Cancer in the CNMI is chewing betelnut with tobacco and other additives. Now, the fastest growing segment of oral cancer patients are young, healthy, non-smoking individuals. This is why everyone over the age of 18 should be screened annually. The visual examination is simple, painless, and quick. Early detection save lives.



Commonwealth Cancer Association
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Clinic

ToothWorks
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New solar energy firm holds grand opening Saturday

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Those who want to turn their homes on to solar energy can learn more at the opening of Micronesia Renewable Energy's CNMI office at the Island Commercial Center across Shell Gas Station on Middle Road tomorrow, Saturday.

General manager Christopher Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the company is amped up and excited to continue the success they've had in Guam in the last three years by working with CNMI residents and businesses.

The renewable energy company will offer the first month of costs free for qualified customers who sign up between April and May, Sablan said. More information can be had at the grand opening on Saturday.

The office opens at 10am Saturday.

MRE-CNMI is partnering with Sunnova, a nationwide solar energy company, for their "SOLAR4ALL" program.

"Homeowners who want to be able to hedge and reduce their energy costs but were cash-restrained can now accomplish this with no money down," Sablan said in a statement.

"This solar energy service agreement structure will offer two options that can reduce the typical homeowner's monthly bill by up to 25 percent, and with no money down this is truly a spectacular program for the CNMI."

One of the largest expenses for a homeowner is energy costs. The new program will allow homes to save money and place it where it is needed most—back into education, family vacations, and savings.

Public warned of high surf today

A tropical disturbance passing well south of the Marianas is causing increasing wind speeds, enough to require a small craft advisory, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management. In addition, seas are expected to build to between 8 and 10 feet in response to the winds.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 11am today, Friday.

The Department of Public Safety Boating Section also confirmed high surf at the Grotto in Marpi, making it unsafe for swimmers and divers. Grotto is closed to swimming and diving until further notice.

Fresh to occasionally strong trade winds up to 29 mph and combined seas building to 8 to 10 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Friday morning. Highest seas are expected east of the islands.

The public is being advised to avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. A small craft advisory means that wind speeds of 24 to 38 mph are expected to produce hazardous wave conditions to small craft. (HSEM/DPS)

says MRE-CNMI.

"With the ever-increasing cost of energy homeowners can finally start saving cash and help the beautiful islands of the CNMI by reducing their carbon

footprint and helping clean our planet one rooftop at a time."

MRE and Sunnova

MRE-CNMI specializes in the development, design, engineer-

ing, procurement, and construction of renewable energy and alternative energy infrastructure. They allow clients to reduce their carbon footprint and lower energy costs, and specialize in

"surpassing client's expectations, through a proven track record and reputation of executing projects on time and within budget."

Sunnova is a solar power company that operates in homes

across the United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico. They are currently in 21 states and territories, providing solar service through a network of local installation partners who work directly with homeowners. Their solar services are known for being "low-cost and worry-free."

Come Celebrate
MICRONESIA
RENEWABLE ENERGY INC.
CNMI

GRAND OPENING

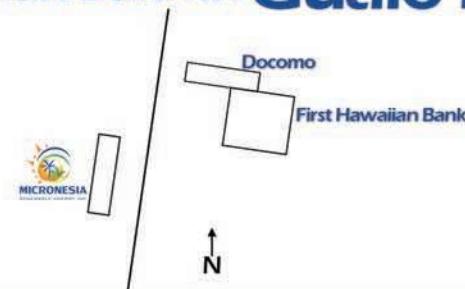
on Saturday, April 25!

Please join us starting at 10 a.m.

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SELECT

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POWER
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Public school students learn about water testing



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Vicente Elementary School teacher Maria Paz Mettao, Science & STEM coordinator Annette Pladevega, and Instructional Technology & STEM coordinator Jeaniffer Cubangbang join BECQ's Jaime Reyes, Melvin Piteg, Mike Kapileo, and Jacob Lizama.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Public School System and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality partnered for two days for students to tour the BECQ laboratories.

BECQ staff brought awareness to students of the importance in testing drinking water and marine water, including its analysis of water samples. Students were told of various bacteria that could be found in water. BECQ says it is important to know that water is tested because of its necessity for survival.

Students say it was a good learning experience and now know what red flags at beaches mean.

The tour was coordinated by Dean Palacios of BECQ, Kimo Rosario of PSS Pupil Transportation, and Annette Pladevega, Science & STEM coordinator. (BECQ)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on **Thursday April 30, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes – March 19, 2015
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports
 1. Finance
 - a. MVA Support
 2. Personnel
 3. Ad Hoc Committee
- 4) New Business
 1. Bylaws
 - a. Board Vacancies
 2. Russia ad hoc
 - a. Travel Agent/Local Hotel Incentive Promotion for approval
 3. China ad hoc
 - a. Beach Party Details for approval
 - b. Media FAM Tours (2 groups TV and Newspaper) for approval
 - c. Marpi Restroom
- 5) Old Business
 1. Tinian & Rota Charter Flight Initiatives/Plans
 2. Email Ratification
 - a. Re-energizing of Beach Pathway
 - b. Saipan Tropical Relay
- 6) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 7) Executive Session
- 8) Adjournment

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

BEACH CLEANUP

Whispering Palms School students clean up Pau Pau Beach on Earth Day, April 22.



MARCH VS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

April is a Sexual Assault Awareness Month. On April 23, 2015, the entire 129 Ayuyu Battalion cadets of Kagman High School participated in a 5K March as part of the Awareness Against Sexual Assault and Violence campaign. KHS JROTC cadets marched through the Kagman community to bring awareness to stop sexual violence. Cadets not only learn about sexual violence but it is part of the JROTC curriculum where a block of instruction on sexual violence and sexual harassment class is given. This is to educate young people about sexual assault and violence so that they can report a problem in the community if this occurs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Clarity sought on PSS budget guaranteed by Constitution

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System and Board of Education have asked a legal interpretation from the Of-

fice of the Attorney General on sections of the CNMI Constitution regarding revenue sources set aside for public schools.

In an interview, BOE chair Herman Guerrero explained that

this year the governor identified some \$180,000 in total resources. "By the time they start deducting for commitments, you are saddled with \$140,000 for appropriations," he said. "So we

are asking if it is the net [amount] or the total amount [that PSS budget should be taken from]?"

The question is, what is the intent of the Constitution," he said.

Guerrero said they are wait-

ing for a response from the AG. They sent the letter about two weeks ago, he said.

Right now, PSS gets 25 percent of the general revenues of the government, after House Legislative Initiative boosted from 15 percent to 25 percent the minimum amount of the government

budget set aside for PSS.

The Constitution states: "The public elementary and secondary education system shall be guaranteed an annual budget of not less than 25 percent of the general revenues of the Commonwealth through an annual appropriation."



ARTS FESTIVAL SPONSOR

IT&E Sales & Marketing manager Hans W. Mickelson, second from right, is joined by Department of Community Cultural Affairs Arts Council director Angel S. Hocog and other staff from both parties, for a photo opportunity. IT&E donated \$3,000 worth of in-kind items to the 2015 Flame Tree Arts Festival.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ex-Corrections officer pleads guilty to smuggling 'ice' to prison inmate

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced yesterday that Eugene Jesus Meno Sunega, 33, of Sinajana, Guam pleaded guilty on April 23, 2015, in the U.S. District Court, before Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, to one count of providing contraband in prison.

Sunega was charged on March 4, 2015, by a federal grand jury in a four-count indictment with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, pos-

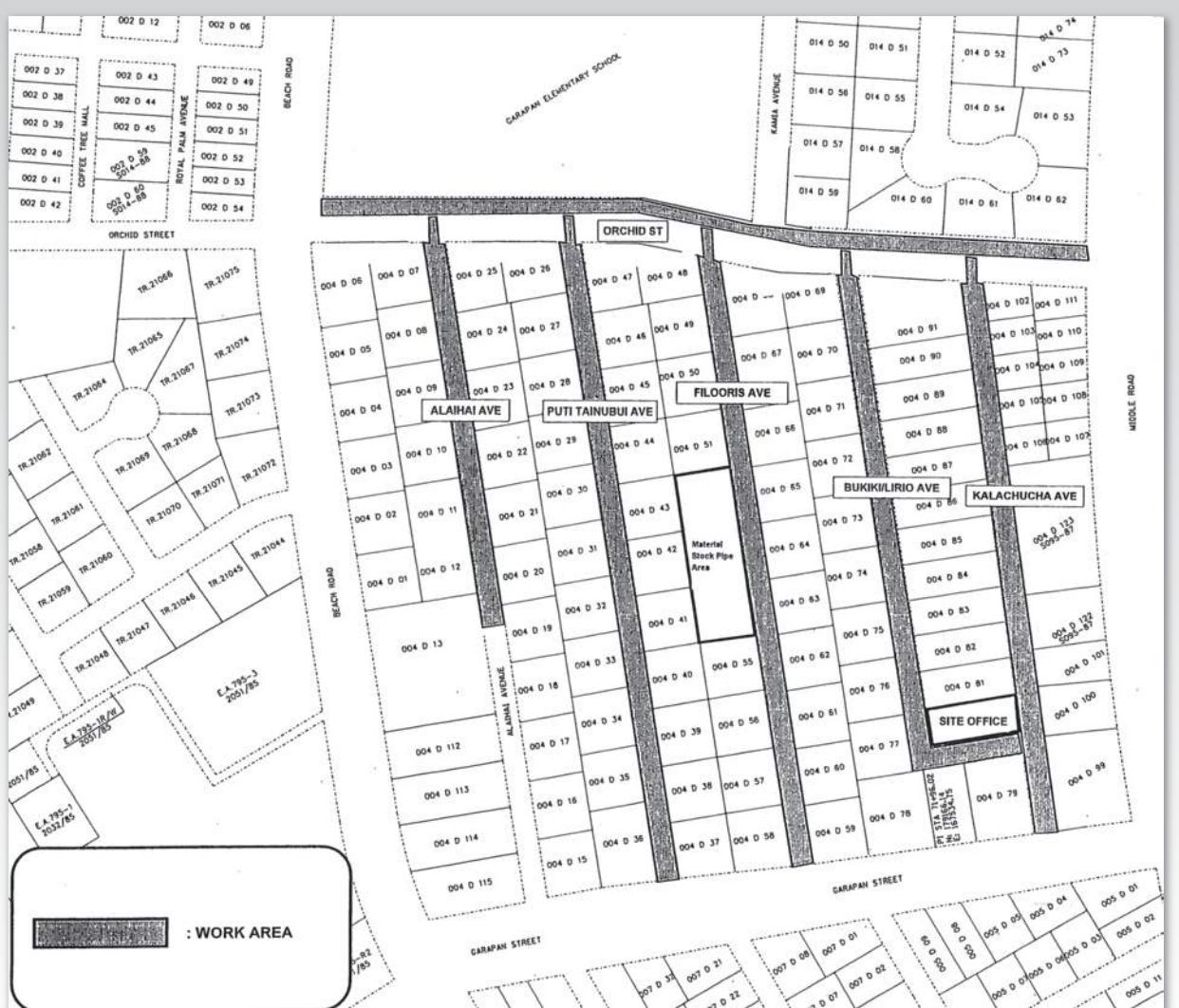
sition with intent to distribute methamphetamine, providing contraband in prison, and false statement or representation.

Sentencing for Sunega is scheduled for July 27, 2015. The offense of providing contraband in prison carries a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

According to court documents, Sunega abused his position of trust as a Guam Depart-

ment of Corrections officer by attempting to smuggle contraband methamphetamine to prison inmate Gregorio Cruz. The methamphetamine weighed approximately 3.9 grams and was approximately 95.3 percent pure, according to forensic analysis. Sunega also lied to federal agents investigating the incident when he claimed to have never personally smoked methamphetamine.

This incident was discovered by Guam Department of Corrections officials. The federal case is the result of an investigation conducted by the DEA Guam Resident Office and the FBI Guam Resident Agency. Credit is also given to GPD's Special Investigation Section and to the ATF. The prosecution was handled by assistant U.S. attorney Mohammad Khatib. (USAO)



LAND ASSIGNMENT

1. LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT:
CONSIST OF 2 LOTS WITH 4 COMMERCIAL UNIT, FORMELY NIKO LAUNDRY AND NIKO MARKET AND 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS.
AREA: LAND(A) 1,124SQM, LAND(B) 1,111SQM
LOCATION: SAN ROQUE, BEFORE PALM RESORT AND LA FIESTA

2. LAND ASSIGNMENT:
CONSIST OF 2 LOTS
AREA: LAND (A) 737 SQM, LAND (B) 779 SQM.
LOCATION: ACROSS 13 FISHERMAN MONUMENT AND NEXT TO MARIANAS EYE INSTITUTE CLINIC

3. LAND AND HOUSE ASSIGNMENT:
AREA: 5,000 SQ.M.
LOCATION: DANDAN, DANDAN GOLF RANGE

4. LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT:
3 COMMERCIAL SPACE & 1 RESIDENTIAL AREA
AREA: 697 SQ.M.
LOCATION: BEACH ROAD GARAPAN, NEXT TO SAIPAN TRIBUNE BUILDING

5. LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT:
AREA: 757 SQ.M.
LOCATION: SAN ANTONIO, ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH NEAR PIC HOTEL AND PIC STAFF BARRACKS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL EMER AT 234-1818 OR 287-0693 NIKO CONSULTANT INCORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Office of the Governor, CIP Office & Maeda Pacific Corporation

Announcing the start of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project. All residents and businesses along Orchid Street, Alaihai, Puti Tainobiu, Filoris, Bukiki & Kalachucha Avenues are hereby advised that construction of a new flood control system is in progress.

Construction will cause temporary closure of the above mentioned avenues from time to time. All efforts will be taken to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Upon completion this summer, residents and businesses along these avenues will enjoy a new drainage system, sidewalks, paved driveways and brand new pavement.

The Governor & Maeda Pacific Corporation ask you to please "Pardon our Progress" as we work to improve the CNMI.

MCS announces open enrollment for SY 2015-2016

This week, Mount Carmel School announced that it had launched its new online admissions portal, just in time for families to enroll their children for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. The new portal is facilitated by Rediker Software, a school administrative software company that works with schools in all 50 states and over 115 countries, including the CNMI's Public School System. The school also announced continued enrollment incentives for the upcoming year.

New admissions portal and enrollment incentives offered

The new admissions portal is facilitated by Rediker's Administrator's Plus® software suite, a cloud-based student information software system that lets schools collect, manage, and analyze whatever student information they choose to track.

According to the Rediker website, "Due to seamless integration with both our TeacherPlus gradebook and the ParentPlus web portal, Administrator's Plus offers a complete, secure online solution." The upgrade to Administrator's Plus is part of the school's broader efforts to

upgrade its Student Information Management System, or SIMS.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero is very happy with the launch of the new portal. As he puts it, "It's taken us over a year to transition to this new system, but now that we have, this will be a step up from what we used to have." The old SIMS was a disconnected set of tools, such as School Minder, Engrade, and Microsoft Excel, that did not communicate or coordinate with one another. The new SIMS will integrate practically all aspects of student records, stakeholder communication, and progress monitoring.

"With this new system, parents can more easily monitor the progress of their children and communicate more effectively with the school," Deleon Guerrero said. "Plus, once we have the system fully up and running, families will be able to pay their tuition and fees online, which will make things much easier for everyone."

Enrollment incentives offered

In addition to the new admissions portal, the school announced that it will continue

enrollment incentives that were offered this past 2014-2015 school year.

The first incentive is an Early Bird Registration Fee. Normally \$400 per child, parents who pay the registration fee by May 15 will get a 50 percent discount on the fee, at

only \$200 per child.

The school will also continue family discounts for families that enroll more than one child. Families with two children can avail of a \$600 discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a \$1,000

discount for the third child, and families with four children can avail of a \$1,500 discount for the fourth child.

In addition, the school will once again offer up to \$750 per student in scholarships and financial aid for qualified students. Scholarship and Financial Aid application forms will

be available on May 18.

Lastly, the school announced that it would waive the \$50 application fee per child for each application submitted online using the new admissions portal.

To learn more about enrolling at Mount Carmel School for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. (MCS)

Nearly \$6 million in CIP funds granted to Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina approved yesterday nearly \$6 million in grant funding under the Office of Insular Affairs' Capital Improvement Project program for improvements to infrastructure in Guam's public schools, Guam's Memorial hospital, the Guam Police Department, and the Paseo Stadium in preparation for Guam to host the 12th Festival of the Pacific Arts in 2016.

"Through this critical infrastructure funding, we are able to assist the government of Guam on a wide swathe of public health, education, safety and cultural needs and support priority projects identified by Gov. Eddie Calvo," said Kia'aina. "All of these projects directly affect the quality of life for the

people of Guam."

■ Guam Memorial Hospital: \$1.8 million to install a new Hospital Nurse Call/Intercom system which

is used for direct communications between patients and medical professionals and interfaces with the existing Public Address System and thus can be used for organization-wide emergencies. The funds will also be used to replace essential heating and cooling units in the hospital enabling them to meet their mission of "providing quality patient care in a safe environment."

To make repairs to the hospital, convert education facilities into a central high school, bolster the Guam Police Department, and repair Paseo Stadium for the 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts

■ Police Department: \$1.2 million to build an Evidence & Property Control Facility and purchase new patrol vehicles

and motorcycles for the Guam Police Department.

■ Department of Education Facilities: \$1 million to begin the Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classroom (Insular ABCs) initiative this year. The health and safety initiative addresses critical deferred maintenance throughout Guam's public schools and will continue through 2018. Guam will use another \$1 million to convert Tiyan educational administration facilities into a central high school to alleviate overcrowded conditions at the John F. Kennedy High School in Tamuning and the George Washington High School in Mangilao. (OIA)

new energy-efficient lighting; and landscaping. Paseo Baseball Stadium is an important facility for community social and athletic activities and will be a central venue for the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts to be hosted by Guam in 2016.

■ Department of Parks and Recreation: \$750,000 for upgrades to the Paseo Baseball Stadium, including the following: construct a new concrete roof; replace perimeter fencing; bring the Stadium back up to code; replace the press box and stadium grandstand; incorporate

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-072 (CIF-SAIPAN)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 05, 2015

TIME: 10:30 AM

"OCCUPANT PROTECTION/CHILD RESTRAINT MESSAGE TRAILER FOR SAIPAN DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN ANY BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB15-CHCC-078

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 19, 2015

TIME: 10:30 AM

"TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CEO - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB15-DOC-068 (A-J)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 05, 2015

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT & PRINTERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, CENTRAL STATISTICS DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A SINGLE OR MULTIPLE CONTRACTS WILL BE AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS INVITATION TO BID.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARK O. RABAULIMA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP15-BECQ/DCRM-069

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 21, 2015

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION VIDEOS, FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER APRIL 24, 2015 AT THE BECQ OFFICE LOCATED AT THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, ON CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUESTED TO skeele.crm@gmail.com.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO REBECCA SKEELE BY PHONE, (670) 664-8313, OR BY E-MAIL AT skeele.crm@gmail.com, NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 13, 2015, CHAMORRO STANDARD TIME, UTC +10 HOURS (E-MAIL IS PREFERRED). RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-CHCC-079

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 19, 2015 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"OUTSIDE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CEO - Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB15-CHCC-077

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 19, 2015

TIME: 10:00 AM

"FUEL AND LUBRICANT SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CEO - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP15-BECQ-081

SUBMISSION: MAY 20, 2015 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO CONDUCT ASTM PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PINA PLATEAU SITE ON TINIAN, A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

The Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after April 17, 2015 at the BECQ Office located at the Gualo Rai Center Building, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan or electronically by e-mail request to raymasga@deq.gov.mp during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for May 06, 2015 at 9:30 a.m., local time in the 2nd Floor BECQ Conference Room (Rm. 205).

Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted by facsimile to Mr. Ray Masga, Manager, Site Assessment and Remediation Branch at (670) 664-8540 or by e-mail to raymasga@deq.gov.mp no later than the close of business, May 11, 2015. Responses to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMA
Administrator of BECQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB15-CHCC-066 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 12, 2015

TIME: 10:00 AM

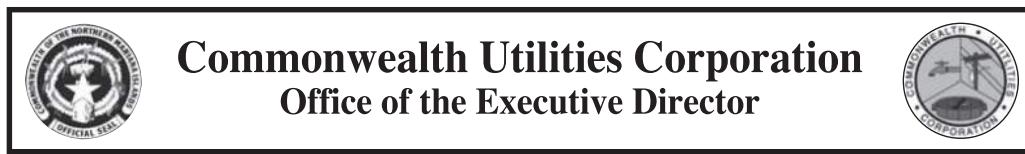
"PURCHASE OF NINE (9) MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO TABLETS AND EIGHT (8) APPLE IPAD AIR 2 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CEO - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-015

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-015, Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 27, 2015** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

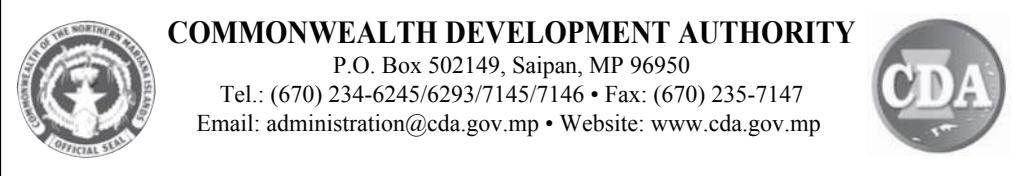
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 11, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147

Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR BOND TRUSTEE SERVICES 2015-CDA-04-RFP

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 3, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), are soliciting proposals for bond trustee services.

The original and six (6) copies of a proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (Chst) on May 23, 2015. No proposals will be accepted after that date and time. Proposals shall be in sealed envelopes marked "Proposal for Bond Trustee Services" and delivered to the attention of:

Mr. Herman S. Sablan,
Director Division of Procurement and Supply (P&S)
Department of Finance
Government of the Northern Mariana Islands
Lower Base
Saipan, MP 96950

Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from the CDA office, CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan. Electronic copies of the Proposal will not be accepted. The CDA reserves the right to reject any proposal that in its sole determination is not in the best interest of the CNMI Government.

/s/
Manuel A. Sablan
CDA Executive Director

/s/
Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-016

WATER METER INSTALLATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of removal/replacement of failed and non-functioning water meters on the CUC water system, installing meters for customers who do not currently have a water meter on their service line, and relocating water meters to the right-of-way. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the USEPA and the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water & Energy Efficiency grant.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-016, Water Meter Installation, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 4, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Junior Engineer - via email nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Officer



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

ARFF BUILDING ROOF REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-15 CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the repairs of the roof at the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station at the Franciso C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for Roof Repairs at the ARFF Station, CPA-SA-002-15"**. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that the contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the ARFF personnel.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceed what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. An electronic copy of the layout can be made available upon request to Ms. Wendi Prater at email address wprater@cpa.gov.mp.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for construction	45%
2. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	25%
3. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
4. Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120)** calendar days. Liquidated damages of \$200.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: April 13, 2015

Nation

Friends: Man's death after arrest reveals Baltimore dynamics

BALTIMORE (AP)—Slight and slender at just 5-feet 8-inches and 145 pounds, 25-year-old Freddie Gray was a warm, funny, generous figure in Baltimore's predominantly poor and African American Sandtown community, his friends and relatives said.

The young man who died of traumatic spinal injury a week after his April 12 arrest used to give his hand-me-down clothes to younger children and crack jokes whenever anyone was having a bad day, they said.

But as demonstrators poured into Baltimore's streets following Gray's death, community



A member of the Baltimore Police Department stands guard outside of the department's Western District police station as men hold their hands up in protest during a march for Freddie Gray, Wednesday, April 22, 2015, in Baltimore.

members said Gray—who like many of his peers also had a criminal record—symbolizes the experiences of many black

men in Baltimore, living in poverty and in fear of the police who patrol their neighborhoods.

Health law brings growth in food stamps in some states

CHICAGO (AP)—President Barack Obama's health care law has had a surprising side effect: In some states, it appears to be enticing more Americans to apply for food stamps, even as the economy improves.

New, streamlined application systems built for the health care overhaul are making it easier for people to enroll in government benefit programs, including insurance coverage and food stamps.

In most affected states, the enrollment increases were not

huge, ranging from 1 percent to 6 percent over two years, according to an Associated Press analysis. The sole exception was Nevada, where enrollment shot up 14 percent.

The enrollment is climbing as Republicans try to cut the costs of the food program and at a time when food-stamp usage would normally be expected to decline. Eligibility rules have not changed.

West Virginia's food-stamp enrollment increased 4 percent after a Medicaid expansion

that was part of the health care changes. Enrollment jumped because people were "more engaged with our systems and more aware what they're eligible for," said Jeremiah Samples of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

With the economy improving, national food-stamp enrollment declined in 2013 and 2014. But in 11 states, demand rose between January 2013 and the end of 2014, the AP analysis showed.

"He was a typical Sandtown kid," said Sean Price, who grew up there. "He wasn't perfect, but neither is anybody. This isn't anything new. Freddie Gray is just a microcosm

of what happens every day in Sandtown, in Baltimore."

Gray was arrested April 12 after police "made eye contact" with him and another man in an area known for drug activity, police said, and both men started running. Gray was handcuffed and put in a transport van.

Exactly what happened in the van and how he was injured are still unknown. But he died a week later in a hospital of what police described as "a signifi-

cant spinal injury."

The six officers involved in the arrest have been suspended with pay. Attorney Michael Davey, whose firm contracts with the Baltimore Fraternal Order of Police, said five of the six gave voluntary statements. Davey said all six are under criminal investigation.

Demonstrators who have protested peacefully against Gray's death for several days took to the streets again Wednesday in two separate actions.

After 4 decades as fugitive, ailing man turns himself in

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)—

Frail and tired of leading a secret life for four decades, 66-year-old Clarence David Moore called police this week to surrender. The deputy who answered thought it was a prank. It wasn't.

Moore escaped from police custody three times during the 1970s and eventually settled into a quiet life, living in Kentucky since at least 2009. His health is poor from a stroke late last year and he has difficulty speaking.

When Franklin County Sheriff Pat Melton showed up at Moore's house to make

the "arrest," Moore was in a hospital bed. He broke down in tears. He told the sheriff he needed medical help.

"He looks like he's almost 90," the sheriff said.

A woman who had been living with Moore had no idea of his past. "She was just blown away when all this happened," the sheriff said.

On Wednesday, a woman who answered the door at the single-story ranch home declined comment. The modest neighborhood on the outskirts of the state's capital was dotted with brick homes with well-tended yards. Two sport-

utility vehicles were parked in the driveway.

Moore was convicted of larceny of more than \$200 in North Carolina in 1967 and was sentenced to up to seven years in prison, according to records from the Department of Public Safety. While working with a road crew in the Asheville area, he escaped and was recaptured in 1971. He escaped again the following year and was on the lam until he was apprehended in Texas in 1975. His third escape from a Henderson County prison was Aug. 6, 1976.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-019

Opening Date: April 14, 2015
Closing Date: April 28, 2015

Deputy Director for Electric Systems

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or designee. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Oversees and directs the implementation of internal operations and programs of designated department; provides strategic planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluation of programs, projects, processes, systems, standards, and/or services; prioritizes projects and initiatives in alignment with organizational objectives; ensures compliance with organizational and Federal, Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards. Provides oversight and operational direction to achieve departmental goals, objectives, and strategic vision; develops and implements policy; evaluates operational effectiveness and oversees the implementation of process and quality improvements and the optimization of resources. Serves as an organizational and departmental representative advising and consulting with CUC management, departments, Boards, various agencies and/or other organizations. Develops short and long term goals, objectives, and strategic plans; oversees and/or negotiates contracts; provides and presents communications and updates on department activities, positions and status. Develops, administers and oversees assigned department or division budget. Reviews financial statements, monitors and approves expenditures and ensures compliance. Prepares a variety of management reports. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : Executive Director's Office, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$71,689.00 per annum to \$134,364.00 per annum.
CONTRACT : Two (2) Year Contract.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and 8 years of professional experience in the assigned field including 2 years in leadership experience. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Managerial principles, practices and techniques; Utility service administration principles and practices; Advanced principles and practices in assigned area of responsibility; Program development and administration principles and practices; Policy and procedure development practices; Financial management and budgeting principles; Forecasting and planning principles; Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. Human Resource performance management. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Managing, monitoring, and evaluating subordinates; Delegating and assigning priorities; Developing and directing department functions, programs and initiatives; Providing short and long range planning and strategy; Planning for and allocating resources; Developing and administering budgets; Monitoring operations and enforcing policies and quality standards; Negotiating and building consensus; Ensuring regulatory compliance; Monitoring and overseeing contract administration; Researching, providing and presenting reports, findings and recommendations; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Planner

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Planner. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Manage complex permit applications including pre-application consultations, application intake, review for compliance, assuring compliance with timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparation of project recommendations and reports as assigned by the Administrator; Prepare recommended updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Zoning Law, Zoning Board regulations, and zoning office guidelines; Coordinate, as appropriate, with other agencies and secure project reviews and recommendations; Identify and seek resolution of interdepartmental concerns; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the Saipan Zoning Law and related permit requirements and procedures; Maintain records using paper and electronic media and a Geographic Information System; Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, plus a minimum of 4 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, or related field. Other requirements include proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Outlook Explorer.

The salary range is \$40,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life, and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Therese T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

The deadline to receive application and all requirements is May 1st, at 4:30pm.

World

In Libya's anarchy, migrant smuggling a booming trade

CAIRO (AP)—Libya's chaos has turned it into a lucrative magnet attracting migrants desperate to make the dangerous sea voyage to Europe. With no central authority to stop it, business is booming, with smugglers charging ever more as demand goes up, then using the profits to buy larger boats and heavier weapons to ensure no one dare touch them.

It's a vicious cycle that only translates into more tragedies at sea.

With each rickety boat that sets off from Libya's coast, traffickers rake in hundreds of thousands of dollars. So assured are they of their impunity that they operate openly. Many even use Facebook to advertise their services to migrants desperate to flee war, repression and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.

And they are armed to the teeth, often working with powerful militias in Libya that control territory and hold political power.

One coast guard officer in Sabratha, a Libyan coastal city that is a main launch point for smug-

glers' boats headed to Europe, said his small force can do little to stop them. Recently, he heard about a vessel about to leave but refused to send his men to halt it.

"This would be suicidal," he told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from the powerful traffickers.

"When you see smugglers with anti-aircraft guns mounted on pickup trucks on the beach, and you have an automatic rifle, what are you going to do?"

If any one factor explains the dramatic jump in illegal crossings into Europe, it's Libya's turmoil since the 2011 civil war that ousted longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. As the boat traffic increases, so do the horrific disasters. Over the weekend, a ship packed with migrants capsized off Libya, leaving at least 800 dead, the deadliest shipwreck ever in the Mediterranean. At least 1,300 people have died in the past three weeks alone, putting 2015 on track to be the deadliest year ever.

During his rule, Gadhafi struck deals with Europe to police the

traffic, helping to keep the numbers down. In 2010, some 4,500 migrants made the perilous crossing from North Africa to Italy, the vast majority departing from Libya, according to the EU border agency Frontex.

In 2014, that number spiraled to more than 170,000.

By comparison, just under 51,000 took the second-most-popular smuggler route into Europe in 2014—from Turkey into Greece and the Balkans. That

was about the same as in 2008.

European authorities have been scrambling to find ways to deal with the crisis. One proposal is to fund camps in countries bordering Libya to house migrants before they reach its

coast. Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti said Wednesday there are contingency plans for military intervention against smugglers in Libya and that Italy is willing to lead an operation if it gets U.N. backing.

Mexican girl wrongly sent to US returns to celebration

GUANAJUATO, Mexico (AP)—A 14-year-old Mexican girl who was taken by authorities and sent screaming to live in the United States was returned home Wednesday after DNA tests showed she is not the daughter of the Houston woman who claimed her.

The case of Alondra Luna Nunez drew international attention after a video of the distraught girl being forced into a police vehicle last week circulated in media and on social networks.

The Foreign Ministry said Mexican officials were carrying out a court order to send Alondra to Dorotea Garcia, a Houston woman who claimed the girl was her daughter who had been illegally taken to Mexico by her father years ago. Alondra's family insisted authorities were mistaken but their pleas were ignored.

"It's terrible that they could do this to you," the mother, Susana Nunez, told The Associated Press at an evening barbecue in Guanajuato, where two dozen family members celebrated the girl's return with balloons, streamers, and sizzling steak and chorizo sausage.

Wearing jeans, a gray T-

shirt and a silver necklace with an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Alondra laughed and hugged her brothers, cousins, aunts and uncles. As the sun went down in the hilly working-class neighborhood where they live, family and friends lit candles and recited the rosary on a sidewalk. Alondra wept as an elderly neighbor swept her into an embrace that lasted

for minutes.

"At first I was very upset because I had never been so far away from my parents," Alondra said. But she said she was optimistic the mistake would be remedied. "So after a while I calmed down a bit."

Garcia, speaking to a Houston television station, said the first time she saw the girl, "I saw my daughter." She gave

few details about how she ended up leaving Mexico with the girl, although she said she knows many won't look kindly on her actions.

"The people who know me don't need me to give an explanation for what happened," she said later to the AP. "Whatever explanation I give won't change the minds of people in Mexico or here."

South Africa's image suffers after anti-immigrant attacks

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Only a few kilometers (miles) separate Alexandra, a gritty Johannesburg township where South Africans attacked immigrants last week, from Sandton, a district jammed with high-end stores, restaurants and gleaming office towers symbolizing the upper reaches of the prosperity that attracted so many job-seekers to South Africa.

Adding to South Africa's allure was its image as a "rainbow nation" of diversity and inclusion after white racist rule ended in 1994. Now a nation that seeks to lead in Africa is struggling with perceptions that some of its communities breed intolerance toward foreigners, many from elsewhere in Africa.

The violence against immigrants and the looting of their

shops that erupted this month in parts of Johannesburg and the coastal city of Durban appear to have abated after the deaths of three South Africans and four foreigners. On Tuesday, Alexandra was bustling as uniformed students walked home after school and a few police cars patrolled streets lined with shacks made of sheet metal.

The unrest, however, has been a public relations disaster for South Africa, a country that a visiting Zambian said had been perceived as a "heaven of Africa" because of its relative wealth, stability and freedom.

The Zambian, Dennis Nyati, was attending a Johannesburg conference hosted this week by African Monitor, a South Africa-based group that promotes development. Another delegate,

Yoadan Workneh Shiferaw of Ethiopia, speculated that South Africans involved in the attacks had forgotten "how cruel it was during apartheid," when the country's white minority rulers harshly suppressed dissent.

She said: "Now they're doing it to someone else."

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, on Wednesday condemned "the wave of xenophobic violence in South Africa" and expressed his condolences to the families of the victims.

In a statement, he said he welcomes the public expressions of the many South Africans who have been calling for peaceful coexistence and harmony with foreign nationals. He also urged that all efforts are made to avert future attacks.

WORLD BRIEFS

New airstrikes in Yemen after Saudis say operation over

SANA'A, Yemen (AP)—Hours after Saudi Arabia declared an end to its coalition's nearly monthlong air campaign in Yemen, new airstrikes Wednesday hit Iran-backed militants and their allies in two cities, and the rebels said they would welcome U.N.-led peace talks in the conflict that has killed more than 900 people. The continued airstrikes suggested that the U.S.-backed offensive, aimed at restoring Yemen's internationally recognized president, was entering a new phase in which the Saudi-led military action will be scaled back but not halted completely. Air raids struck positions held by the rebels, known as Houthis, and their allies in the southern port of Aden and the central city of Taiz, Yemeni officials said. Fighting continued in both areas between the rebels and supporters of exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, a close U.S. ally who fled Yemen on March 25.

Officials: Extremist's misfire foiled attack on Paris church

PARIS (AP)—An Islamic extremist with an arsenal of loaded guns was prevented from opening fire on churchgoers only because he accidentally shot himself in the leg, French officials said Wednesday. The 24-year-old computer science student, who was also suspected in the death of a young woman whose body was found on Sunday shortly before his arrest,

had been flagged as a risk for intent to travel to Syria but there had been no specific reason to open a judicial investigation, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Wednesday. Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins said the suspect—an Algerian who had lived in France for several years—was arrested in Paris Sunday after he apparently shot himself by accident and called for an ambulance. He was waiting outside his apartment building for first aid when police arrived. They followed a trail of blood to his car, which contained loaded guns, and notes about potential targets.

Unseasonal rainstorm kills at least 42 in eastern India

PATNA, India (AP)—An unseasonal storm with heavy rain and hail killed at least 42 people, injured more than a hundred and caused heavy damage to the winter wheat crop in eastern India, officials said Wednesday. Most of the deaths were caused Tuesday night by tin roofs that were blown off of poor people's huts by winds reaching 65 kilometers per hour (40 miles per hour) in northeastern parts of Bihar state, meteorologist R.K. Giri said. The storm subsided before daybreak. Nitish Kumar, the state's top elected official, visited some of the worst-hit areas and said 30 deaths were reported in Purnea, seven in Madhepura and the rest in Madhubani and other districts. Thousands of poor people have become homeless as a result of the storm, he said.

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

*We thought of you today, but that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday and days before that too.
We think of you in silence, we often speak your name.
All we have are memories and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake from which we'll never part.
God has you in His arms, we have you in our hearts.*

In Loving Memory of

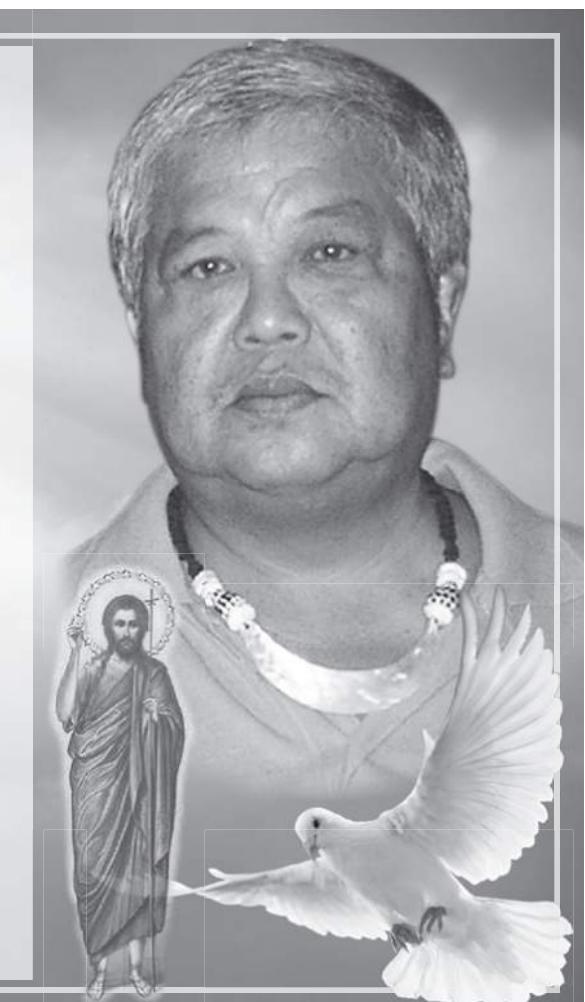
†Juan Santos Dela Cruz

*Please join us in prayers as we remember our beloved on the
2nd Anniversary of his life in Heaven.*

*Mass of intent will be celebrated daily at 6 a.m. at the Mt. Carmel
Cathedral beginning Friday, April 24th through May 2nd. Nightly rosary
will be said at 7 p.m. at the family residence in Susupe.*

*With humble and sincere appreciation for your presence,
thoughts and prayers,*

Lydia Mendiola Dela Cruz and Children



Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Massachusetts police receiving calls from Australia

NORTHBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts police department has been receiving some curious calls from people with Australian accents. Police dispatchers in Northbridge say they have recently received several calls on their business line from people in an Australian community with the same name. Northbridge, Massachusetts, is about 35 southwest of Boston. Northbridge, Australia, is a suburb of Perth. Lisa Gaylord, who's been a dispatcher for 16 years, tells The Telegram & Gazette she got her first call from Australia in March. She thinks people there are probably searching online for "Northbridge police" and calling the first number that pops up. One disgruntled Australian said the call would "cost a fortune," and hung up. Australian callers have also told Gaylord about a fight and to report a missing person.

Scottish collie behind wheel of runaway vehicle causes scare

LONDON (AP)—Don the Sheepdog might want to learn a new trick: applying the brakes. The border collie inspired a traffic scare and social media gold after he plunged down a hill and onto a highway in his master's vehicle. Wednesday's incident near Abington, Scotland, began when farmer Tom Hamilton left Don sitting in his utility vehicle as he inspected lambs. He insists the parking brake was on. Not strongly enough. The vehicle rolled through a fence, down a steep hill and across the M74 motorway, missing other vehicles and hitting a security barrier. Onlookers presumed the dog was driving, and that inspired an online joke-fest. Some wondered if police had collared Don and put him in the doghouse, whether he was licensed to drive, or might have been barking mad.

Frustrated technophobe 'kills' computer, gets citation

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—For killing the source of his frustration and abandoning the body in an alley, a Colorado man could be considered lucky for just receiving a citation—except his victim was his computer. The Colorado Springs Gazette reports that 37-year-old Lucas Hinch was slapped with a ticket for discharging a weapon within city limits after he took his computer outside and shot it eight times. Colorado Springs police Lt. Jeff Strossner, who issued the citation, says Hinch told him he had been fighting his computer for months before he decided to exact his revenge. Hinch accepted his citation without problem and told Strossner

he did not realize he was breaking the law. The penalty for the citation will be up to a judge.

Cops: Driver cruised for miles with man on hood after fight

PITTSBURGH (AP)—State police say a Pittsburgh man drove for several miles through seven communities with another man clinging to the hood of his vehicle after an argument. The driver, 46-year-old Dwayne Harvard, is charged with aggravated assault and other crimes after the Sunday night incident. He tells local TV reporters he was just defending himself and called 911 while driving with the man still hanging on. Harvard and his girlfriend say the man had a knife. Harvard also says he was afraid the man might shoot him if he stopped driving. The other man hasn't been charged. Much of the ride took place on Route 28. It began in Springdale Township and ended in Harrison Township.

Man lost in Boston tunnel vent calls police, gets arrested

BOSTON (AP)—A man who called police to say he was trapped in an underground storm drain in Boston has been rescued and charged with trespassing. Daniel Kelly called police Monday night after getting lost inside a wall vent of the Ted Williams Tunnel, part of the Big Dig system. Police asked him his location. State troopers using lights and sirens drove through the tunnel system to help locate him. A trooper saw his hand waving from a vent shaft on the tunnel's D Ramp wall about 15 feet off the ground. Kelly pleaded not guilty Tuesday and was released without bail. Kelly is from suburban Somerville. He says he remembers calling a cab after having several drinks at a bar but doesn't know how he ended up in the tunnel. He says he thinks someone spiked his drink.

Firefighters rescue duck stuck in Louisiana fireplace

SLIDELL, La. (AP)—Firefighters in Louisiana have rescued a duck lodged in a fireplace. WVUE-TV reports firefighters in St. Tammany Parish responded to an unusual call Sunday from a home in Slidell outside New Orleans. When firefighters arrived, they discovered a large duck trapped in the fireplace with its head poking out of the bottom of the chimney. Firefighters had to dismantle part of the fireplace to reach the duck. It took over two hours to safely remove the bird. It's unclear how the duck became lodged in the chimney.

Woman gets 3-7-years for shooting over bacon-less burger

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan woman has been sentenced to three to seven years in prison for opening fire at a McDonald's restaurant after workers twice failed to put bacon on her burgers. Authorities say 30-year-old Shaneka Torres became angry in February 2014 when the first burger she ordered at the restaurant's drive-up station was missing bacon. She was offered a free meal, but bacon also wasn't added to a second burger order. Police say she fired a shot through the restaurant. No one was injured. A Kent County Circuit Court jury convicted her March 25. Judge Paul Sullivan on Tuesday sentenced her to one to five years for shooting at a building, plus two years for possessing a firearm during a felony. Torres says she's sorry "but it's over and done with."

Cops: Woman arrested at JFK hid cocaine in girdle, underwear

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities quickly found out why an arriving passenger at Kennedy Airport was so nervous: She had 4 pounds of cocaine hidden in her girdle and underwear. Authorities said Monday that 70-year-old Olive Fowler seemed nervous when she arrived in New York from Guyana on April 12. Customs and Border Protection officers escorted her to a private room at the airport and found the cocaine while they were searching her. Officials estimate that the drugs have a street value of more than \$73,000. Fowler is facing federal narcotics smuggling charges. NJ.com reports that her federal public defender, Peter Kirchheimer, declined to comment.

Clean-water advocate takes Earth Day swim at Superfund site

NEW YORK (AP)—A clean-water advocate took an Earth Day swim in the polluted Gowanus Canal, a federal Superfund site. "I'm going in!" yelled Christopher Swain, wearing a yellow-and-black protective suit and a green swim cap as he crossed a railing into the water near a sewage discharge point in Brooklyn, where a sign warns people to stay out of the water. He was accompanied Wednesday by a woman in a kayak, paddling a few feet away from him. "It's not safe to swim in here," he said afterward, stating the obvious. The canal water "tasted like mud, poop, ground-up grass, detergent, gasoline." He didn't swallow, and he gargled with hydrogen peroxide. Police stood watch but did not intervene. Swain, 47, got out about a half-hour later. He said the weather forecast cut his swim in half, but he promised to return another time.

Science & Technology

Google's wireless phone service pose challenge to large carriers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google is trying to shake up the wireless phone industry with a low-priced service designed to pressure major carriers into making it more affordable for people to get online and use Google's services.

The service, called "Project Fi," debuted Wednesday, about two months after Google revealed its plans to expand its ever-growing empire into providing wireless connections for smartphones.

Google Inc. is selling the basic phone service for \$20 a month and will only charge customers for the amount of cellular data that they use each month, instead of a flat rate. Each gigabyte of data will cost

\$10 a month. That means a customer could sign up for a plan offering three gigabytes of data and get \$20 back if only one gigabyte was used in a month.

Most wireless phone carriers allow their customers to roll over unused data into another month of service without refunding any money.

Project Wi-Fi initially will only be sold to a narrow audience that owns the Nexus 6, a smartphone that Motorola Mobility made with Google's help.

Google's pricing setup makes Project Fi less expensive than most of the comparable plans offering by the four biggest wireless phone carriers—Verizon, AT&T,

T-Mobile and Sprint. The monthly prices for a single line of smartphone service with up to one gigabyte of cellular data at those carriers range from \$45 to \$50 compared to \$30 from Google, before subtracting any potential credits for unused data.

The major carriers, though, offer a variety of family plans that could still be better deals than Project Fi. Those bundled plans allow several phone lines to share a pool of cellular data.

Besides trying to bring down the prices of wireless phone plans, Google is promising subscribers that their Nexus 6 model will automatically connect with the fastest network available.

Hello? Facebook launches phone-calling app

NEW YORK (AP)—Hello? Anyone there? Facebook unveiled a new voice-calling app for Android phones on Wednesday, the same day that its WhatsApp messaging service introduced voice-calling for iOS devices.

Phone calls, it seems, are not dead yet.

Called "Hello," the stand-alone app is the seventh child of Facebook Creative Labs, the company's arm tasked with creating new applications outside of Facebook. Others, such

as the news-reading app Paper or the video sharing app Riff, have met with limited success.

Hello's aim is to give people more information about who is calling them. Because it's connected to Facebook, Hello users can see information about their callers' identity even if they don't count them as a contact.

Hello is currently available in the U.S., Brazil and Nigeria.

Facebook, which is based in Menlo Park, California, has been coming out with its own stand-alone mobile apps to

TECH Q&A

How to conceal your contact list when sending a group e-mail

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I'm switching e-mail addresses from ATT.net to Gmail.com, and I'd like to tell all my contacts with one e-mail. Is there a way to do it without revealing my entire contact list to every recipient of the e-mail?

A: Also, is there a way I can have ATT.net forward my mail to Gmail for a period of time after I terminate the AT&T account?

A: ATT.net e-mail is run by Yahoo, which makes it easy to send a single e-mail to a list of people without revealing the list to the recipients.

It works by putting just one e-mail address in the "TO" box of the e-mail, and putting the rest of the e-mail addresses in the "BCC" (blind carbon copy) box. Everyone will receive the same e-mail, but each person will be able to see only the single address in the TO box.)

An even better alternative is to put your own e-mail address in the TO box, while putting all the recipients' addresses in the BCC box. That way, you'll get the main e-

mail, and your contacts will all get copies. While your contacts may question why they got an e-mail addressed to you, you can explain in the message that it was done to protect everyone's privacy.

This e-mail process is easy because you don't have to type all the recipients' addresses into the BCC box. Go to the ATT.net contact list, and check the BCC box next to each e-mail address you want included in the group e-mail. For details, see tinyurl.com/ld34eda.

If you'd like to create a special contact list that includes only the people you want to reach with this particular e-mail, see tinyurl.com/kzmf62.

Once you've closed your ATT.net account, it won't forward anymore. So leave it open for a few months and set it to forward all mail to your new Gmail account. That way you won't lose contact with the people who fail to note your new e-mail address. To set up ATT.net forwarding to Gmail, see tinyurl.com/mm4sj3c.

Q: When I try to download

important forms on my Windows 7 PC, I usually receive the message "Your current security settings do not allow this file to be downloaded." How can I adjust my security settings so that I can download these harmless files?

A: Many people have received this error message, which is caused by an overly restrictive security setting in Microsoft's Internet Explorer

Web browser. Once you change the setting, you'll no longer be blocked from downloading and opening the files. Find the settings list in Internet

Explorer, go to Tools and choose Internet Options. Then click the Security tab and the button labeled Custom Level.

However, some experts debate which setting to change. Some say you should enable the "downloads" setting without restrictions (see tinyurl.com/q7dnx8y.) Others say it's safer to change the "launching applications and unsafe files" setting so you'll be asked for permission about each questionable download (see tinyurl.com/qx38hr.)



Life & Style

Clint Eastwood reflects on career, 'American Sniper'

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Clint Eastwood wants to get one thing straight: He did not threaten to kill Michael Moore.

"It isn't a bad idea," Eastwood laughed Wednesday dur-

ing a tribute luncheon for the veteran actor and director at CinemaCon in Las Vegas.

The "American Sniper" di-

rector was responding to comments from Moore on social

media and in interviews criticizing the movie "American Sniper" and a reported confrontation between the two back in 2005.

"I said, 'hey, he's probably right,'" Eastwood said. "He was

just expressing an opinion."

In front of a large audience of theater owners at the annual conference, Eastwood discussed subjects as varied as the most impactful film he saw as a child

("Seargent York"), his early struggles in the business, and the highs and lows of directing.

Eastwood said projects consume his life and thoughts completely.

When it's over?

"There's sort of a postpartum thing that comes over you," he said.

But it was the box office success of "American Sniper" that most interested the audience. Eastwood attributed the appeal of the film to the fact that Afghanistan and Iraq are on people's minds.

"Everyone has opinions on it, but nobody's really thought about it from the point of view



of the families of the people over there and the people who go over there ... and donate their time for a belief that some of us think is a great idea and some of us don't think is a great idea," he said.

"It opens a lot of questions that are fun to broach," he added.

The 84-year-old Eastwood said he "ain't stopping" when it comes to making movies. But there is one genre he probably won't be dabbling in: superhero movies.

"I read comic books when I was a kid," he said. "I don't read them now."

Russell Crowe finds his roots with 'The Water Diviner'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—At least Russell Crowe is self-aware.

"It won't come as any surprise to you, but I'm completely comfortable when all the creative decisions are mine," says Crowe.

The Oscar-winning actor stepped behind the camera for the first time with "The Water Diviner," a classically made epic about a father (Crowe) who travels from the Australian outback to Istanbul in search of the bodies of his three sons, who were killed at the Battle of Gallipoli. The film, which opens Friday, is at once an adventure tale, a drama, and a romance.

Inspired by Australian cinema's golden age directors like Peter Weir, Gillian Armstrong and Phillip Noyce, Crowe and his cinematographer, Oscar-winner Andrew Lesnie ("The Lord of the Rings"), weave together an intricate tapestry of striking visuals to both recreate the war and its aftermath.

Crowe talked with The Associated Press at a Los Angeles hotel recently about his foray into directing. The remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Was it important to you to do this film independently?

Crowe: Look, it was always an option to go into a studio situation to start with. But it felt to me that in order to have the creative control that I wanted

to have and, out of due respect to the story itself, it should be an independent Australian film. That's the more difficult road to travel, but that's the one that I chose to take.

AP: You've worked with your share of incredible directors over the years. What have you taken from them to inform your own directing style?

Crowe: For filmmakers who've made multiple movies, they have experience, but they only have experience of themselves as a filmmaker. Whereas I'm bouncing around from different skillsets: The organizational ability of Ridley Scott to the precision of a Ron Howard to the artistic sensibilities of a Peter Weir to the absolute belief of a Darren Aronofsky to the scope of a Tom Hooper. You learn from everybody. Sometimes you're learning things that you're going to take to heart and apply to yourself, and sometimes you're learning things that you would never, ever do.

AP: You're keenly interested in all aspects of filmmaking, even down to the lenses.

Crowe: You have to be. You can have an actor who's not, but that's the actor who's going to waste your day. Here's a mark, this is the lens size, the camera moves in this way. If they don't take that information straight away and you have to do multiple takes because they're ignoring what the camera setup

is, or—and I know many actors like this—they believe the camera should only be set up to do what they want to do, that's a problem. When you're working in a visual medium where everything is about the framing and composition, you can't be that way. You're not going to survive on a Ridley Scott set if you don't respect what he's already made decisions about.

And you certainly won't be giving Peter Weir any joy if you're going against the things he's got planned. Being technically proficient is a way to assist your director in making his day work.

AP: You put your actors through a very rigorous boot

camp involving exercise and nightly history lectures. And yet all were grateful for the experience and the attention you paid to their preparation.

Crowe: It's really distressing to be on a set where what the actors require for them to be at their best is the last thing thought of. As an actor myself, when I'm laying out my schedule, preparation is going to be foremost. These days, rehearsal has almost disappeared. You get onto a film set 48 to 72 hours before you start shooting and you're expected to have done all of your preparation beforehand. I know from vast and deep experience that that's just not the best way to approach it.

AP: The film has already opened in Australia, where it's done amazingly well so far. Did you expect that?

Crowe: Yeah, very surprising box office. The line in the sand in terms of "blockbuster" in Australia is \$10 million and we're well past that. ... It's just the rest of the world we're concerned about now. There's a historical aspect in this film that there's no connection to. Once people are in front of the film, they get taken by the story, they get emotionally involved and it's a big, epic thing that comes with lots of thrills and some laughs and some hope for the future by the end. However, getting them into the cinema to start with? That is the trick.



Russell Crowe arrives at the LA Premiere of "The Water Diviner" at TCL Chinese Theatre on Thursday, April 16, 2015, in Los Angeles.

AP

Pixar's 'Inside Out' leaves audience in tears

LAS VEGAS (AP)—There wasn't a dry eye in the over 4,000-seat Colosseum theater as the credits rolled following the first screening of Pixar's "Inside Out" at CinemaCon on Wednesday morning.

The film, out June 19, personifies the emotions of an 11-year-old girl who has just moved from Minnesota to San Francisco with her family. Inside the bright control center of Riley's mind, there's ringleader, Joy (Amy Poehler), volatile Anger (Lewis Black), snobby Disgust (Mindy Kaling), hysterical Fear (Bill Hader), and, of course, Sadness (Phyllis Smith).

"Inside Out" presents a deeply humane, high-concept look at life, youth, and the complex beauty of nostalgia.

Prior to the screening, Pete Docter told the audience of theater owners at the annual

conference that the story was inspired by watching his own daughter grow up. Pixar fans might recall that Docter's daughter voiced young Ellie in the 2009 film "Up."

Docter said that his daughter, named Elie, was very much like the character in the film: "Very spirited and spunky," he said.

Then, she turned 11. Suddenly moody and withdrawn, Docter said it made him wonder what was going on in her head.

In "Inside Out," amid the confusion of adolescence and the stress of the move, Joy and Sadness get sucked out of the control center, leaving only Anger, Fear and Disgust to run the ship. As Joy and Sadness struggle to find a way back to headquarters, Riley's life, personality and childhood innocence melts down as the remaining emotions try to do their best to emulate Joy.

Timing is right for plastic surgery, but parents object

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 years old, working full-time as a teacher and I'm about to move out of my parents' house. I have decided to have breast augmentation surgery, and I know the best time to do it would be this summer so I'll have time to recover before school starts.

The problem is my parents are adamantly against my having this surgery. I've heard it all: "I wish you loved your body the way it is," "That's so superficial," and "You'll regret it!"

I would wait until I move out, but my new place (which is being built) won't be finished until the end of the school year. I have postponed this surgery for several years, and now I have the money and I'm ready. How can I please my parents and also please myself?

TIRED OF WAITING

DEAR TIRED OF WAITING: Have another talk with your folks and explain that while they may wish you loved your body the way it is, you don't. Tell them that you don't feel wanting the surgery is superficial and that you feel it will give you confidence about your appearance that you don't have now.

The decision about whether to have plastic surgery is a personal one. No one should make it "for" you; the choice should be yours and yours alone. If you decide later that you regret it, you can have the implants removed. Some women have done that—but most women don't.

DEAR ABBY: I am planning a wedding this summer. My fiance and I are paying for it ourselves, so we are trying to keep it within a budget. I'm so excited I want to shout it from the rooftops because I thought this day would never happen.

My problem is, when I have shared the news of our engagement, some people have told me, "I can't wait to get my invitation." We have already made up our guest list and they aren't on it, so how can I tactfully reply without offending? My fiance and I have even discussed whether it would be worth the extra money each guest will cost in order to keep the peace and not have anyone carry a grudge against us.

STRUGGLING TO BE POLITE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR STRUGGLING: When someone who is not on your guest list says he or she can't wait to receive an invitation, that's your cue to explain that due to budget constraints, your wedding will be small -- pretty much immediate family only. No one can argue with that.

DEAR ABBY: Yesterday I spent the afternoon with a friend who was in town for her husband's business conference. Her 20-year-old son called her because he had broken the screen on his cellphone.

Over the next two hours as we visited, she took phone calls from him, researched places to get his phone fixed, then proceeded to fill

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



out insurance forms on her phone for the repair while I sat there. I finally stood up and said I was leaving because she seemed to be "busy." She immediately became offended and rudely said, "Well! Sorry I p-d you off!"

Abby, it was a broken cellphone, not a broken arm. Am I wrong for feeling the way I do? We have been friends for more than 30 years.

INSULTED IN RENO

DEAR INSULTED: You're not wrong. Your friend must have thought her son's predicament was an emergency, which is why she felt compelled to deal with it immediately.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		36	Stickup job	37	Word with app or bee	38	Musical based on "La Boheme"	39	Amazon.com buy	40	Needle case	41	Female	42	Henhouse threat	43	Starbucks employee	44	South Korean capital	45	Symbol of intrigue	46	Basis for grits	47	"The Biggest —"	48	Real Time" moderator	49	Architect Saarinen	50	Snacked	51	Subsequently	52	Homer's neighbor	53	Sacred ending	54	Will beneficiary	55	Ethereal	56	Political org.	57	Leak slowly	58	Owns	59	Capades site	60	Inhumane	61	Owns	62	Swiss canton	63	Will ben-	64	German poet/dramatist	65	Piece of work	66	Entertained	67	Snacked	68	Actress Olivia	69	Snacked	70	Seeming contradiction	71	Actress Olivia	72	Snacked	73	Seeming contradiction	74	Starbucks employee	75	South Korean capital	76	Symbol of intrigue	77	Basis for grits	78	"The Biggest —"	79	Real Time" moderator	80	Architect Saarinen	81	Snacked	82	Subsequently	83	Homer's neighbor	84	Sacred ending	85	Will beneficiary	86	Ethereal	87	Political org.	88	Leak slowly	89	Owns	90	Capades 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Duncan, Leonard help Spurs beat Clippers in OT



LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Tim Duncan scored 28 points, Kawhi Leonard added 23 and the defending champion San Antonio Spurs beat the Los Angeles Clippers 111-107 in overtime Wednesday night, tying their Western Conference playoff series at 1-1.

The Spurs blew 10-point leads in the third and fourth quarters, and got into overtime on a pair of free throws by Patty Mills with 8 seconds left in regulation. Duncan scored four straight points in the extra session while playing with five fouls.

His jumper snapped a 101-all tie, Mills followed with a fast-break layup off Leonard's long pass, and Leonard scored on a layup for a 107-101 lead with 56 seconds left.

Mills finished with 18 points off the bench after starting point guard Tony Parker departed early with an injury. Boris Diaw had 12.

The series, the only one of the eight in the first round that is tied after two games, moves to San Antonio for Game 3 on Friday night.

Blake Griffin had his first career playoff triple-double of 29 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists, but a costly turnover late in regulation.

DeAndre Jordan had 20 points and 15 rebounds for the Clippers.

Chris Paul's two free throws gave the Clippers a 94-92 lead with 50 seconds left in regulation, but Griffin lost the ball while dribbling with a chance to put it away and Mills tied it with two free throws.

Paul missed the potential win-

ning shot with a 19-footer from the right side as regulation expired. The Clippers were 9 of 21 from the line in the fourth, but they hung in while Spurs were held to two field goals over the final 6:41.

The Clippers failed to follow up their dominant showing in Game 1, when they led by 20 points in the fourth and won by 15.

Danny Green hit the Spurs' third consecutive 3-pointer to start the fourth, launching an 11-4 spurt that restored their lead to 88-78.

The Clippers cut their deficit to 88-87 on a free throw by Matt Barnes, capping a run of nine straight points, with all but five of them coming from the line.

They tied the game at 90-all on a pair of free throws by Redick.

Duncan scored four of the Spurs' first five points of the third, stretching their lead to 10 points. The Clippers put together an 11-1 run, including five in a row by Paul, to get to 59-58.

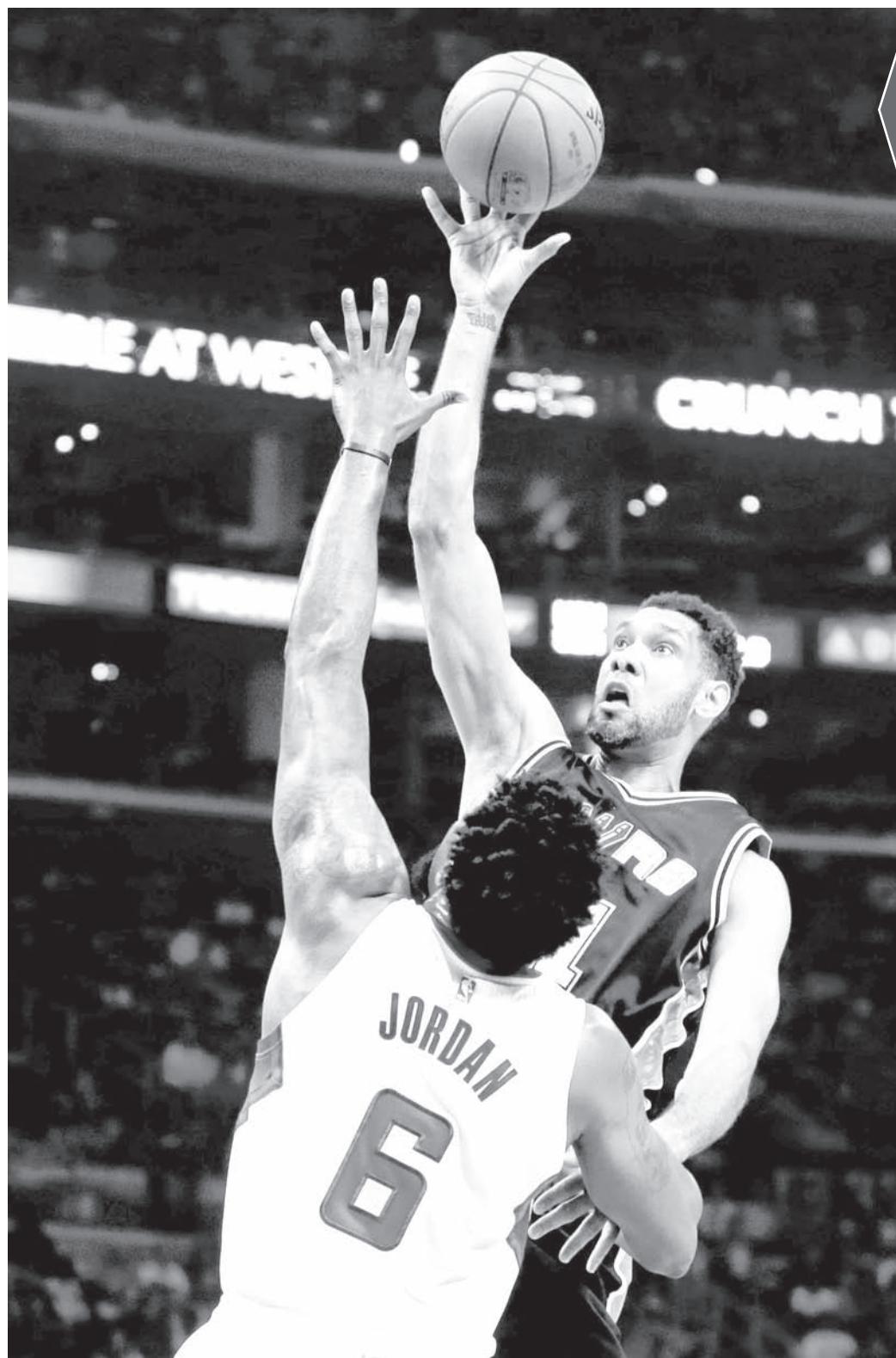
But Mills ended the third with consecutive 3-pointers, putting the Spurs back in front 77-74 going into the fourth.

Hawks 96, Nets 91

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 19 points and top-seeded Atlanta again survived a tougher-than-expected test from Brooklyn, holding on for a 2-0 lead in their Eastern Conference play-off series.

Squandering an early 12-point lead, the Hawks fell behind before halftime and spent the rest of the game struggling to put away the No. 8 seed.

It went down to the wire. Deron Williams missed an open



AP
San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan, right, shoots over Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan during the first half of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Los Angeles, Wednesday, April 22, 2015.

15-foot jumper that would've tied it with about 10 seconds to go. Kyle Korver rebounded, was fouled and made two free throws to clinch Atlanta's win.

The best-of-seven shifts to Brooklyn for the next two contests. Game 3 is Saturday.

Millsap, who missed five games near the end of the season with a sprained right shoulder, ditched a pad that he felt restricted his shooting motion. He responded by hitting 7 of 11 shots.

Grizzlies 97, Trail Blazers 82

In Memphis, Tenn., Mike Conley and Courtney Lee each scored 18 points, and Memphis beat Portland to grab the franchise's first 2-0 lead in a play-off series.

The Grizzlies took full advantage of starting the playoffs with home-court advantage for only the second time in their short postseason history. They had only won their play-off opener once before, and that was on the road in San Antonio in 2011.

Marc Gasol had 15 points, and Zach Randolph and Beno Udrih added 10 apiece.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 24 points and 14 rebounds, and he also had four blocks with two steals. Damian Lillard added 18 points but the Trail Blazers lost their first two play-off games for the first time since 2011, when they fell in six games to Dallas.

Hawks, Ressler agree on \$850M sale for NBA team

ATLANTA (AP)—Seven months after a racially charged email put the Atlanta Hawks on the market, there's an agreement to sell the NBA team for \$850 million.

A group headed by billionaire Antony Ressler, which also includes former NBA star Grant Hill and Spanx founder Sara Blakely, signed off on a deal Wednesday to purchase the team that made a surprising run to the top of the Eastern Conference this season.

The Hawks announced the sale, which also includes the operating rights to Philips Arena, during the first half of their play-off game against the Brooklyn Nets. Atlanta held on for a 96-91 victory and a 2-0 lead in the series.

The deal still must be approved by three-fourths of the NBA's other 29 owners. That shouldn't be a problem, given that Ressler is a minority owner of baseball's Milwaukee

Brewers and is familiar to the NBA after he attempted to buy the Los Angeles Clippers last year.

"We are honored and thrilled to have been chosen to become the new stewards of the Hawks," said Ressler, who was not at Game 2 but issued a statement through the team. "We respect the NBA's approval process and, accordingly, can say no more other than we are incredibly excited by the Hawks' success and wish them luck in the playoffs."

Hill, a seven-time NBA All-Star who is African-American, and Blakely, whose undergarment company has made her one of the country's most influential business-women, bring diversity to the new ownership group. It also includes Blakely's husband, entrepreneur Jesse Itzler, and Rick Schnall, a partner in the equity investment firm Clayton Dubilier & Rice.

Rondo finished with Mavs, knee bumps Parsons from playoffs

DALLAS (AP)—Rajon Rondo is out in Dallas.

Rick Carlisle made that clear when asked if he thought the free agent-to-be would wear a Mavericks uniform again.

"No, I don't," the coach said.

The Mavericks announced Wednesday that Rondo injured his back before the last of several times the point guard was benched in four months under Carlisle—almost all of the second half of a 111-99 loss to Houston on Tuesday night that gave the Rockets a 2-0 lead in the first-round series.

Game 3 is Friday night in Dallas, and the Mavericks also will be without Chandler Parsons. The forward is out for the rest of the playoffs with a right knee injury that will require surgery.

Carlisle tried to sidestep a question about the timing of the Rondo announcement before giving the much more direct answer about the 29-year-old guard's future in Dallas.

It ended a saga that started with the December trade with

Boston, a deal the Mavericks hoped would boost hopes for their first play-off series victory since winning the franchise's first championship four years ago.

Rondo had 10 play-off triple-doubles with the Celtics, who won the title in 2008 and went to the NBA Finals again two years later. The Mavericks gambled that they were getting the player Rondo was before missing large parts of two seasons because of a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

Instead, Dallas ended up with a bad fit for an offense that regressed after being among the league's best at the time of the trade. Rondo also missed six games because of a broken bone near his left eye.

"My relationship with him was professional," Carlisle said. "We learned a lot going through this—trying to make this thing work."

Rondo was benched late in a close game not long after the five-player deal that sent guard Jameer Nelson, center

Brandan Wright and forward Jae Crowder to Boston. In February, Rondo and Carlisle had a shouting match on the court that resulted in a one-game suspension.

In Game 2 against the Rockets, Rondo sat for all but the first 34 seconds in the second half. He was pulled after quickly picking up his third and fourth fouls guarding James Harden, and getting a technical after one of the calls.

While Carlisle could have hidden behind foul trouble as the reason for yet another ineffective game, the coach changed everything by leaving Rondo on the bench for good.

The two quick fouls were puzzling, but paled compared to Rondo inexplicably getting called for an eight-second back-court violation while walking the ball up the court in the first half. His poor defense right after the call led to an easy 3-pointer for Jason Terry.

With the Mavericks leading early in the fourth quarter and backup Devin Harris

unavailable because of a toe injury, Carlisle still didn't go back to Rondo. J.J. Barea, who scored 13 points, and seldom-used Raymond Felton were his choices.

"I don't make decisions out there," Mavs star Dirk Nowitzki said. "I thought Ray had some good stretches throughout the game, gave us a lift off the bench. I thought J.J. gave us a lift in the first half. I guess that's what coach rolled with."

Parsons won't get to finish the first year of a three-year, \$46 million deal he signed last summer, an offer that Houston declined to match. He tried to keep playing after getting hurt at Indiana on March 29, but came out early two games later against his former team.

The 26-year-old forward pushed hard to get ready for the playoffs, then played 37 minutes in the opener before sitting out Game 2. Carlisle declined to discuss details of the injury, but said he believed Parsons would be ready for training camp in October.

Duda, Flores lead Mets past Braves 3-2 for 10th straight



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—Lucas Duda hit

a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning that sent the New York Mets to their 10th straight win Wednesday night, 3-2 over the Atlanta Braves.

Wilmer Flores hit a tying homer and an RBI single for the Mets (12-3), on their longest winning streak since taking 10 straight in July 2008. Another victory in the series finale Thursday afternoon would match the team record of 11 in a row—last accomplished in 1990—and complete a perfect 10-game run on their first homestand of the season.

Despite injuries to several key players, New York is off to its best start since the 1986 World Series champs opened 13-3.

Pinch-hitter Curtis Granderson drew a leadoff walk from Jim Johnson (1-1) in the eighth and went to third when Juan Lagares chopped a hit-and-run single through the right side.

Duda singled to left for his latest clutch hit early this season.

Buddy Carlyle (1-0) retired dangerous pinch-hitter Jonny Gomes with two on, and Jeurus Familia got three quick outs for his seventh save.

Giants 3, Dodgers 2

In San Francisco, Joe Panik hit a game-ending sacrifice fly after the Dodgers tried a five-man in-

field in the ninth inning, and the San Francisco Giants edged Los Angeles.

Reigning World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner and current NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw kept things close, dueling until it became a battle of the bullpens.

A single by Brandon Belt loaded the bases with one out, and prompted Dodgers manager Don Mattingly to argue that Giants third base coach Roberto Kelly improperly made contact and stopped pinch-runner Gregor Blanco at the bag.

Diamondbacks 8, Rangers 5

In Phoenix, Archie Bradley shook off a shaky start to pitch six effective innings, lifting the Arizona Diamondbacks over Texas.

Bradley (2-0) walked five in the first three innings, including one that scored a run, but proved to be effectively wild, holding the Rangers to a run and two hits.

Bradley held his own in his first two big league starts, beating reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw and outpitching World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner in a no-decision.

Reds 2, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Billy Hamilton dashed home on a two-out wild pitch in the ninth inning and the Cincinnati Reds sent Milwaukee to its eighth straight loss.

Hamilton scored both runs for Cincinnati, which won its third straight game against Milwaukee. The Brewers have the worst record in the majors at 2-13.

Johnny Cueto (1-2) gave up five hits and struck out eight in eight innings. Aroldis Chapman pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Cardinals 7, Nationals 5

In Washington, Kolten Wong homered and drove in the tie-breaking run with a double in the eighth inning to lift the St. Louis Cardinals over Washington.

Wong had three hits and drove in three runs, and also made a pair of nifty plays at second base. His go-ahead hit came against Blake Treinen (0-2).

Kevin Siegrist (1-0) pitched 1-3 scoreless innings and Trevor Rosenthal got three outs for his fifth save. St. Louis won for the sixth time in seven games.

Pirates 4, Cubs 3

In Pittsburgh, Gregory Polanco hit his first home run of the season and Vance Worley got through 5 2-3 shaky innings as the Pittsburgh Pirates held off the Chicago Cubs.

Polanco also doubled and made a fine running catch of a fly ball by rookie star Kris Bryant with the bases loaded.

Worley (2-1) allowed an unearned run. Tony Watson got six outs for his first save of

the season and fifth of his five-year career.

Marlins 6, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Adeiny Hechavarria had a pair of hits and scored the go-ahead run and the Miami Marlins took advantage of Philadelphia's sloppy play to end a five-game losing streak.

The Marlins scored five unearned runs. They took the lead in the seventh when Luis Garcia (1-1) balked home Hechavarria while trying to hold the speedy Dee Gordon on first.

Rockies 5, Padres 4

In Denver, pinch-hitter Daniel Descalso delivered an RBI single in the ninth inning after Corey Dickerson tied the game in the eighth with his second solo homer of the night, helping the Colorado Rockies snap a five-game skid with a win over San Diego.

Dickerson was back in the lineup after sitting out Tuesday with plantar fasciitis. It was the third multihomer game of Dickerson's career.

White Sox 6, Indians 0

In Chicago, Jeff Samardzija threw six shutout innings as the Chicago White Sox trounced Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber and the Cleveland Indians.

Jose Abreu homered for the second straight day. He hit a solo shot in the first inning and added a two-run double in the

seventh to chase Kluber (0-2).

Kluber gave up a career-high 13 hits and six earned runs. He struck out six, walked one and threw two wild pitches, and was pulled before he got an out in the seventh.

Yankees 13, Tigers 4

In Detroit, the New York Yankees scored six runs off Detroit ace David Price in the first inning amid swirling snow flurries, and Mark Teixeira later added a three-run homer.

Price (1-1) allowed eight runs and 10 hits in 2 1-3 innings, his second straight terrible start against the Yankees. Detroit has lost back-to-back games for the first time this season.

Twins 3, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Mike Pelfrey pitched seven scoreless innings to pick up his first victory since 2013 as the Minnesota Twins beat Kansas City.

Joe Mauer reached base four times with two hits and two walks and scored a run.

Pelfrey's last victory was Sept. 23, 2013, against Detroit. He went 0-3 in five starts last year before undergoing season-ending elbow surgery on June 10.

Rays 7, Red Sox 5

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Jake Elmore homered, Brandon Guyer had a two-run, pinch-hit single in a four-run sixth and the Tampa Bay Rays rallied from a four-run deficit to beat the Boston Red Sox.

Elmore hit a solo shot off Edward Mujica (1-1) in his first at-

bat after being promoted from Triple-A before the game.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 2

In Toronto, rookie Devon Travis got three hits, including a go-ahead home run that sent the Toronto Blue Jays over the Baltimore Orioles.

Justin Smoak also connected for the Blue Jays, who have 21 homers this season. They are tied with the Yankees for most in the majors.

Mariners 3, Astros 2

In Seattle, J.A. Happ earned his first win with the Mariners as the Seattle bullpen held off the Houston Astros.

Acquired from Toronto in an offseason trade, Happ (1-1) won in his third start. He gave up two runs and eight hits in 7 1-3 innings, walking none and striking out five.

Reliever Yoervis Medina walked the bases loaded with two outs in the eighth before striking out Chris Carter. An inning earlier, Carter homered.

Athletics 9, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Sonny Gray outpitched Jered Weaver with seven innings of two-hit ball, and Billy Butler homered during a five-run seventh inning that carried the Oakland Athletics over the Los Angeles Angels.

Gray (2-0) struck out seven, escaped a bases-loaded jam in the third and retired his last 14 batters. The right-hander faced the Angels in three of his final eight starts last season, going at least seven innings each time.

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Sakano, Kim get top rankings in U14

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roeslyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mimi Sakano and Tony Kim finished the local junior tennis season on top of the ranking board in the U14 age group.

They secured the top spot in their respective divisions after winning last weekend's 2015 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships—the final event under the 2014-2015 calendar of Northern Mariana Island Tennis Association.

Kim collected 1,500 for his first place finish in the boys U14 singles and 281 from his runner-up place in the doubles

to bring his total in seven events to 3,881. He started the season with 600 points gained from his third place finish in the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic in November last year and added 250, 500, and 750 from the Tan Holdings doubles, Coconut Tennis Classic, and PIC Tennis Championships' singles event and 200 in the Tan Holdings doubles.

Tudela had runner-up finishes in the Tan Holdings and Coconut Classic singles (750 points each) third in the PIC and CNMI Junior Championships (500 and 900), and first in the Tan Holdings doubles (250).

Rounding out the ranking list

Lowly teams try to catch up with leaders

The Barcode Hobbies Deadshot and the Jokers Wonderpool Aces defeated their respective opponents in their bid to keep up with the leaders in the ongoing Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League.

The Deadshot and the Wonderpool Aces, both of which are at the lower half of the standings, scored separate 10-5 wins over the cellar-dwelling Barcode Breakers (51-114), the former's sister team, and the Abyss Rack 'N' Roll (87-78).

The Deadshot are at seventh with an 82-83 slate, while the Wonderpool Aces are a game behind at 81-84. Both are more than 10 wins behind the league-leading Route 33 Alamo Car Rental's 97-68 slate.

Route 33 dropped its match against the Smoke Pub Magic 8-Ball (85-80), 9-6, but remain on top of the standings. Wild Bill's, tied with the Abyss Ti-

tans at second (91-74), also suffered a 9-6 setback at the hands of Jonny's Team SCS (70-95).

The Titans nipped the Jokers Homeboyz (90-75), 8-7, in the other Thursday League match.

In the Tuesday League, title contenders Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers and Jokers IT&E Voyagers suffered contrasting fortunes.

The Hustlers were beaten by the Smoke Pub Ali'i Destroyers, 9-6, but still hold a 97-68 slate against the 93-72 card of the Voyagers, a 12-3 winner over the Abyss Homeboyz II.

The Jokers Str8 Shooters edged the Abyss Crazy 8, 8-7, in the day's final match.

Games were already played last Tuesday and Thursday, but results were not yet available as of press time. (*Jon Perez*)

tings' singles and doubles, and 750 in the PIC singles.

Raulerson finished second in the rankings with her 2,625 points, followed by Malika Miyawaki (2,150), Connatsu Kaga (1,300), Tania Tan (1,250), Grace Choi (1,250), Hyun Woo Chin (400), Michael Ren (375), Joshua Abragan (350), and Allan Lee (300).

In the girls division, Sakano collected 3,950 to lead nine others. She got her most ranking points in last weekend's contest, earning 1,500 for beating Asia Raulerson in the finals. Sakano also won the singles event in the Coconut Classic (100 points), bagged 700 in the Tan Hold-

(400), and Coume Kaga (200).

Rankings in other age groups will be reported next week. NMITA uses the rankings as one of the bases for selecting members of the CNMI Junior Team that will compete in the North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam from June 15 to 20.

Manibusan, Cruz are SGA January, February Aces



Attorney General Edward Manibusan and John "Nani" Cruz are the January and February Saipan Golfers Association Ace of the Month after winning their respective monthly tournaments held in different golf courses.

Manibusan dominated the January Ace at the Marianas Country Club last Jan. 18 where the 5-handicapper finished with a 72 to finish tied with Frances Sablan and Larry I. Deleon Guerrero.

Manibusan was declared the January Ace after the scorecard tiebreak. He was also the closest to the pin in holes No. 6 and 16, while also winning the longest drive in hole No. 2.

Sablan had a gross scored of 100 and a 28 handicap, while Deleon Guerrero tallied 92 and a 20 handicap for that 72.

BREWERS

From Page 32

Brewers shortstop Nokki Saralu in the top of the seventh.

Secharmidal thrice had 1-2-3 innings aided by the Brewers' defense.

In the top of the sixth, Secharmidal struck out Falcons lead off batter Lamarc Iguel. Juan Iguel did get on base on a throwing error by Brewers second baseman Diego Camacho to put a runner on base.

A.J. Lizama struck out swinging for the second out but Juan Iguel left first base and Brewers catcher Manny Sablan quickly made the throw to first baseman Byron Kaipat.

Juan Iguel was tagged out on a rundown play as Kaipat tossed the ball to a waiting Camacho at second base.

The Brewers, enjoying an 8-1 lead entering the bottom of the

Juan L. Babauta and Greg Sablan were the closest to the pin in holes No. 8 and 12, while James Nelson had the longest drive in No. 11.

The SGA February Ace moved to Lao Lao Bay Golf and Resort's West course with Cruz clinching the monthly crown last March 8.

Cruz, a 19-handicapper, fired an 85 to finish with a 66 net score and an 8-shot win against three others who ended up tied from second to fourth spots.

Juan L. Babauta, Joe S. Demapan, and Joe I. Sablan all finished with 74s, but the former finished second and the latter fourth after the scorecard tiebreak.

Cruz was also the closest to the pin in No. 3, Steve Balakrishna took No. 7m while Manny Alvarez won Nos. 12 and 17. Anthony I. Deleon Guerrero had the longest drives in No. 2 and 12. (*Jon Perez*)

seventh, tacked in two more runs to finally put the game away.

Jun Rabauliman, with one out, was hit by a Haini Blas pitch and then stole second base. Lenny Sablan grounded to second but Lizama could not handle the ball allowing the former to safely reach first base with Rabauliman scoring in the same play.

Saralu took Blas' first pitch to deep center field for an RBI double bringing Sablan home for a 10-1 lead.

Veteran pitcher Roy Celis then closed out for the Brewers.

Celis, after the Brewers' defense stranded Juan Iguel, who grounded a single to left, in the top of the eighth, only needed 12 pitches in the ninth to seal the win.

The Brewers' defense had a quick 6-4-3 double play after Camacho caught a Goru Iskawa line drive to tag Frankie Lieto, who had a lead off single

Jones fanned 28 in his time on the mound for the Braves.

The Fielders' Keola Camacho was named the finals MVP after his sterling performance against the Braves in the title game.

Camacho tossed 6 1/3 innings in relief where he gave up two runs, both unearned, on four hits while striking out

against Celis, and then made the throw to Kaipat.

The game ended when Celis forced L.J. Norita to another grounder for a 4-3 putout play.

The Brewers and Falcons split their elimination round games with the former scoring a 10-4 win while the latter bounced back with an 8-5 decision.

The Brewers, also the pennant champions, dispatched the IP&E Fielders in two games in the semifinals, while the Falcons followed suit with the same result against the Saipan Stevedore Yankees.

The Brewers' title defense bid was also threatened after the Falcons went up 2-1 after a 9-6 Game 3 win. The Brewers rallied for an 8-5 triumph in Game 4 to force the deciding match.

The Brewers completed its back-to-back title hunt last year with a 10-9 win over the Yankees in Game 4 of the finals.

six and walking none. He even pitched four shutout innings to help the Fielders preserve their one-run win.

In other news, the Saipan Little League board will start their All-Star team selection on Monday at 5:30pm at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Lucky for De Guzman, Cruz bungled the important charities. Armatech retained possession due to De Guzman's infraction and Mendoza got the two needed free throws as he

NMBA, MISO to introduce badminton

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association is working closely with the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization to introduce badminton to its regular sporting calendar.

MISO executive director Nick Gross and NMBA officials held a meeting recently to discuss plans on how to conduct the tournament and the format to be used for the one-day event.

A number of Community Badminton Club members are studying at Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School, while some players are studying at Mt. Carmel School.

Gross said that MISO is always looking forward of offering more sports opportunities to the youth of the Commonwealth.

"MISO and NMBF are proud to inform all public and private high school, grades 9 to 12, in the CNMI that we will be conducting the first ever badminton "stakeholders tournament," added Gross.

The one-day tournament is



set on May 2, Saturday, from 8:30am to 2pm.

Gross said the objective is to build interest in badminton, attract interested players, coaches/teachers, and volunteers in time for the inaugural season in September this year.

Each school will be allowed a maximum of five male and five female players where they will play two singles (boys and girls), two doubles (boys and singles), and mixed doubles. The tournament format will depend on the final number of registrants.

A mandatory coaches/technical meeting is set on April 27, Monday, at 4pm at the MHS Gymnasium. Gross said that all eligibility requirements must also be submitted before the meeting.

MISO has already concluded the seasons of boys and girls basketball, boys and girls volleyball, and coed team tennis. Golf and girls softball are ongoing.

For more information, email Gross at nickgross07@gmail.com. (*PR*)

SONICS

From Page 32

5, 66-71, with still 1:25 left on the clock.

The Sonics fired blanks in their next offensive sets, regained possession after the leather hit an Armatech player in the loose ball play, but turned it over when Jack Aranda was pressured after the inbound play. However, Armatech failed to capitalize on the opportunities to move closer, as Cruz overshot his mark on a fastbreak layup and also faltered on a long jumper. Armatech kept possession, but Mendoza and Melvin Deocares' shots went off the mark, too. Fortunately, for Deocares he drew a foul on Aranda and had a split to slice the deficit to 4, 67-71 34.4 seconds remaining in the game.

The Sonics sued for time to plan their inbound play, but committed another turnover when Jaymark De Guzman lost his dribble after getting the pass from Mii Tekopua. It was a double blackeye for De Guzman as he was also called for an advantage foul while trying to prevent Cruz from breaking away for a layup.

Luckily for De Guzman, Cruz bungled the important charities. Armatech retained possession due to De Guzman's infraction and Mendoza got the two needed free throws as he

was also fouled on his way to a layup, bringing the deficit down to a deuce, 69-71, 14.4 seconds left on the clock.

Still down with the clock ticking, Armatech fouled De Guzman right away after the inbound play and the gamble seemed to work as the Sonics wingman only made one free throw. He got the shooter's bounce in his first try before missing the second one.

There was a battle for the rebound with Mike Espinosa tapping the ball out to the wrong man, as the Sonics' Sean Rabasto picked it up and Armatech was forced to give up another foul.

Rabasto canned both charities to make it a two-possession game and the Sonics marked Mendoza well in the last 6.8 seconds, not allowing the Armatech gunner an open look at the basket, to keep the 5-point winning margin. Mendoza was well covered that he was forced to swing the ball to Deocares, who pulled up for an airball at the buzzer.

Rabasto top-scored for the Sonics with his 18 points, while De Guzman chipped in 17. The Sonics swept the five regular season games, while Armatech played only its second match after winning its debut against Blue Haus early this month.

Meanwhile, LBT Appraisal went 2-0 after whipping the

First Game

LBT 103 – Pangalinan 21, Tabora 16, Catalla 12, Mungcal 10, Ocampo 8, Tiples 8, De Guzman 7, Alipio 6, Sampang 4, Cosino 3, Pineda 2.

Old'Aces 76 – Rangamar 28, Renguil 18, Ayuyu 17, Manabat 8, Fital 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-17, 47-33, 79-53, 103-76.

Second Game

Sonics 74 – Rabasto 18, De Guzman 17, Mariano 9, Dela Rosa 9, Aranda 7, Flores 6, Javier 2, Mii 2.

Armatach 69 – Mendoza 24, Cruz 14, Espinosa 7, Deocares 7, De Luna 6, Borromeo 4, Santos 2, Fidelino 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-15, 39-25, 59-40, 74-69.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings Football Club and Shirley's FC shut down their respective opponents to keep the Top 2 spots in the 2015 Dove Women's Football League.

Shirley's retained the lead in the seven-team league and improved to a flawless 11-0-0 win-draw-loss record following an 8-0 demolition of Kanoa FC last Saturday in the second game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. In the final game, Tan Holdings also shut down Matansa, 5-0, to remain in second place with its 7-3-1 slate.

Mia Carreon lifted Shirley's to the lopsided win after scoring five goals. She hit back-to-back in the opening minutes of the first half and nailed two of the team's last three in that period for a big 6-0 halftime lead. Negahr Rastguiy and Alexa Vergara posted the two other goals for Shirley's in the first half, while Carreon got one more in the second after Diana Maniacop gave the team its seventh goal in the 55th minute.

In the Tan Holdings-Matansa tussle, it was a Chloe Salvosa show, as the striker registered four straight goals. She knocked in her first in the opening frame and made the last three in the second. Jennifer Perena closed out for Tan Holdings with her goal five minutes before the match wrapped up.

Meanwhile, Independent FC won the first game in last Saturday's triple-header after Paire failed to field enough players in the curtain-raiser. IFC now has a 3-0-8 record for fifth place in the team standings behind Shirley's, Tan Holdings, idle MPU (5-1-3) and Kanoa (4-3-4) and ahead of Matansa (1-2-7), and Paire (1-0-8).

M-LEAGUE

Tan Holdings 4, KFAS 1

Tan Holdings also solidified its



hold to the top spot in Division 1 of the M-League after beating Korean Football Association of Saipan.

Sean Perez and Martin Jambor delivered two goals apiece for Tan Holdings, which owns an 8-0-1 record, two wins ahead of the second-running Wild Bill's (6-0-2). Jambor drew first blood for Tan Holdings with his goal in the second minute and it took a while for his team to find the back of the net again, as Perez scored in the 46th. Perez made it two in a row with his goal in the 71st, while Jambor duplicated that feat after getting his second five minutes before the match finished.

KFAS avoided a shutout when Min Ki Kim ended the drought in the 86th.

Inter Godfather's 1, Paire 1

In the other Division 1 match, Inter Godfather's forced a draw against Paire, thanks to Bruce Berline's goal in the 76th minute.

Inter Godfather's needed a lift from Berline after Paire took a 1-0 lead early in the second half off Yogesh Singh's goal in the 48th minute. Both Paire and Inter Godfather's are stuck to two wins with the latter slightly ahead in the team standings at fourth place with its two draws and four losses against the former's one draw and five defeats.

Thundercats 2, Shirley's 1

In Division 2, the Thundercats moved up to third place after slipping past Shirley's.

Timothy Tawanpiy scored the winning goal for the Thundercats (4-3-3) in the 77th minute. Yong Jun Jeon tallied the other goal for the Thundercats, hitting his target in the fourth minute or three minutes after Muneaki Arai put Shirley's (4-3-4) on the board.

M-LEAGUE FIXTURES

MEN'S DIVISION 1

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
1	Tan Holdings	9	8	0	1	24	27	11	16
2	Wild Bill's	8	6	0	2	18	34	20	14
3	MP United	7	4	1	2	13	20	11	9
4	Inter Godfather's	8	2	2	4	8	23	22	1
5	Paire	8	2	1	5	7	7	16	-9
6	KFAS	8	0	0	8	0	4	35	-31

MEN'S DIVISION 2

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
1	Matansa	9	6	2	1	20	28	11	17
2	Kanoa	9	5	1	3	16	22	17	5
3	Thundercats	10	4	3	3	15	22	14	8
4	Shirley's	11	4	3	4	15	24	23	1
5	Sun Palace	9	4	3	2	15	12	16	-4
6	World Resort	9	2	4	3	10	15	16	-1
7	WNT	9	0	0	9	0	13	39	-26

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
1	Shirley's	11	11	0	0	33	44	3	41
2	Tan Holdings	11	7	3	1	24	33	13	20
3	MP United	9	5	1	3	16	18	21	-3
4	Kanoa	11	4	3	4	15	26	24	2
5	IFC	11	3	0	8	9	11	28	-17
6	Matansa	10	1	2	7	4	12	30	-18
7	Paire	9	1	0	8	3	7	32	-25

UPCOMING GAMES

April 25 (Women's)	4pm MP United vs Kanoa
	6pm Paire vs Matansa
	8pm Shirley's vs Tan Holdings
April 28	7:15pm IFC vs MP United
April 26 (Men's)	2pm Wild Bill's vs MP United

Tan Holdings, Shirley's blank foes



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings and Matansa players trade high-fives after their game in the 2015 Dove Women's Football League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Matansa 6, WNT 1

In the other Division 2 pairing, Matansa gained some cushion against the second-

running Kanoa after routing the CNMI Women's National Team.

Matansa, which now has a

6-2-1 slate against Kanoa's 5-1-3, drew two goals each from Titu Ahmed and Jeong Wook Hwang and one apiece

from Jonathan Nogis and Tej Gurung. Jeralyn Castillo gave WNT (0-0-9) its lone goal.

Football festival tomorrow

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will hold its festival for the spring season this Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

About 200 players are expected to participate in the festival that will start at 8am (for U8, U10, and U12 age groups and 3pm for U6 grassroots).

The U8 age group will have seven teams divided into two groups. Pool A has Matansa Football Club, MP United-2, Kanoa, and Paire and they will

play in a round-robin format. Pool B has only three teams in MP United-1, Shirley's FC, and Tan Holdings and they will have games in a double-round robin format.

Each match will be played in two 10-minute halves and game will be 6-a-side with at least two female players on the pitch at all times.

For the U10 age group, there are four teams in each



group. Pool A has Paire, Kanoa, Matansa, and MP United-2. MP United 1 heads Pool B and will be joined by Tan Holdings, Tinian Premier, and Shirley's FC.

Matches will be 8-a-side (at least two female players on the pitch) and two 10-minute halves with each pool playing in a round-

robin format.

The U12 division also has a round-robin format and an 8 aside game, but each match will be played for 30 minutes (running time).

Shirley's FC, MP

United, Kanoa, Paire, and Tinian Premier are entered in the division.

Meanwhile, once the matches in the U8, U10, and U12 were completed, NMIFA will kick off the grassroots festival for the U6 division.

Players from the various clubs will join the afternoon event, which will feature shooting and dribbling drills, small-sided matches, and other activities that aim to promote coordination and fun games among the youngest age group in the league. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

501 register for Saipan Marathon

A total of 501 runners have registered for Saturday's 10th Saipan Marathon, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The MVA also reminds all runners they are required to pick up their race packets on Friday, April 24, from 4pm to 6pm at American Memorial Park, without exception.

"So far, it's all systems 'go' for Saturday's race," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Organizing an event of this magnitude takes a lot of work, and we thank the numerous sponsors, supporters, volunteers, and community members who have been working diligently with us to make this year's race a success."

The 10th Saipan Marathon will feature marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and 50K courses. Runners from Japan, Korea,

China, Hong Kong, Guam, the USA, and the CNMI have registered. This year's marathon will include the participation of at least eight Japanese comedians, including long-time supporter Kanpei Hazama. He will be joined this year by Shoji Murakami, Tamura Kenji, FUJIWARA, Total Tenbos, Kentaro Uno, Izumono Okuni, and Moriyasu Ban Ban Bigaro.

The start will take place at the American Memorial Park at 4am for the 50K and the marathon, at 5am for the half-marathon, and at 5:45am for the 10K. The cut-off time for the 50K and marathon will be 8:30am at the halfway point in front of Bridge Capital in Garapan.

"Drivers on Saipan are great when it comes to supporting



the Saipan Marathon and our other sporting events," said Duenas. "We thank them for driving slowly and carefully on the course and following the directions of public safety officers, especially at intersections. If possible, we recommend that drivers take an alternative route

other than Beach Road in the morning, to minimize congestion. Please ensure your dogs are restrained, and

of course, everyone is encouraged to cheer for our runners and make them feel welcomed."

Marathon sponsors are: ANGFA Co., Ltd., Mobit Co., Ltd., Artnature Inc., Delta Air Lines. Supporters include: Yoshimoto Creative Agency Co. Ltd., Dentsu Inc., Runtomo.net, Hotel Association of Northern

Mariana Islands, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Lands and Natural Resources Div. of Parks and Recreation, Dept. of Public Works, Hawaiian Rock, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Northern Mariana Athletics, Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, IT&E, Hyatt Regency Saipan, PDI, GrandVrio Resort, Tasi Tours, PMT, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Kanoa Resort, Saipan World Resort, Saipan Southern High School MYWAVE Club, Commonwealth Health Center Nursing Department, KinPachi Restaurant, Bridge Capital LLC, KKMP, T Galleria, American Memorial Park, Saipan Mayor's Office, CNMI Fire Department, and members of the MVA.

For more information, contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 664-3210 or through email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. (MVA)



Duncan,
Leonard help
Spurs beat
Clippers in OT

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tan Holdings,
Shirley's
blank foes

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32 FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lancaster pitches Brewers to championship



JON PEREZ

The GSM Brewers celebrate their three-repeat title win after beating the Falcons last Wednesday night in Game 5 of the 2015 Saipan Baseball League finals at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

GSM Brewers Mark Flores made a bold decision in giving the ball to rookie pitcher Lancaster Secharmidal in the final game of the 2015 Saipan Baseball League championship series.

The lefty 19-year-old hurler didn't disappoint as he helped the Brewers clinch a third straight crown in Wednesday

night's winner-take-all 5 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Secharmidal tossed seven innings, six in shutout fashion, while Pat Alepuyo and Diego Camacho drove in two runs each as the Brewers made short work of the Falcons, 10-1, in the deciding game of the series.

Secharmidal, a former Saipan



Game Little League standout, gave up four hits while striking out nine and walking two in a superb performance on the mound that was capped with a finals most valuable player honor after the match.

Frankie Lieto, who had a lead off walk, scored the Falcons' lone run on a fielding error by

See BREWERSON
Page 30

charities and misses shots in succession in the closing minutes.

Armotech was down by as much as 21 points early in the third, 51-30, and was still behind by 10, 71-61, going into the last two minutes of the match when it made one final push to overhaul the Sonics' lead. A quick 5-0 run off Kobe Mendoza's drive and Jethro Cruz's left corner triple moved Armotech within

See SONICS on Page 30



Braves reap individual honors

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Natibu Sports Association Braves got some sort of consolation after their players dominated the individual awards after losing their winner-take-all finals in the Big League division of the Saipan Little League against the IT&E Fielders last Tuesday night.

The Fielders, managed by veteran manager Tony Rogolifo with the help of coaches John Manibusan and Pat Tenorio, escaped with a 6-5 win over the Braves in the finals.

The Braves, aside from finishing as runners up to the Fielders, clinched the pennant



while the Padres were given the sportsmanship award.

A.J. Evangelista led the Braves' list of awardees when he bagged the most runs trophy with 13 and then joined teammate Frankie Lieto and the Padres' Bradley Lieto with the most triples with two apiece.

Evangelista was one of the most consistent hitters the whole season and was among the top 10 batters that earned for him the season most valuable player honors.

Verlance Secharmidal, of Big League titlists Fielders, earned the batting crown going 18-for-41 or a league best .439 average, while the Padres' Jerald Cabrera had the most doubles with four.

Braves catcher Frankie Lieto belted the lone home run the whole season and drove in a total off 11 RBIs.

See BRAVES on Page 30

The Natibu Sports Association Braves pitcher Daron Jones was the Big League's strikeout king retiring 28 batters the whole season.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sonics' Jack Aranda pulls up for a shot and is fouled by Armotech's Melvin Deocares during the fourth quarter of their U20 game in the UFO caging last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.